BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING MACINTOSH MAGA

148 PAGES! IT'S A WHOPPER!

MACFORMAT

ISSUE 24 ■ MAY 1995 ■ £3.99 WITH HD DISK

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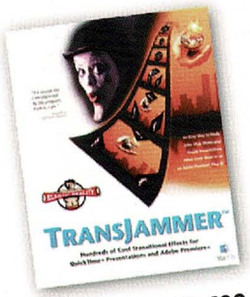

TransJammer SRP £99

TransJammer effects can actually warp and distort the images—effects that were previously only found in hardware transition generates costing tens of thousands!

Effects
slide off alternate directions. The corners
Blinds2
The A roll is split into diagonal bands which slide off alternate directions. The corners
Blob1
Really a variation on the classic iris wipe, a B roll grows in an irregular pattern to
Blow1
This effect uses more memory than most other TransJammer effects.
Bond1
This transition is inspired by the classic Bond films. A gun barrell-sized hole in the
Bounce1
In Bounce 1, the A roll appears to be mapped onto the surface of a ball which
BrickFall1
In Break Fall 1, the A roll is divided into 30 rectangles. One of the rectangles becomes
BrickFall2
In Break Fall 2 the A roll breaks into tiles

Transitions are effects that shift you from one set of pictures to another. **TransJammer** is a suite of 100 killer transitional effects (each with many variations) that make it really easy to create outrageously cool video effects.

TransJammer adds hundreds of transitional effects to Avid VideoShop or Adobe Premiere (v2 or later). They can be used just like any built-in transitions... except the results will be wilder, more eye-catching and more memorable!
Transitions that bounce images over the screen, shatter video, create 3D effects, warp and twist animations are all now possible, with smooth edges and perfect motion (even field rendered if you need).

For the every day user or the video professional, **Transjammer** is an excellent addition to your software collection.

TransJammer is available through all quality resellers. In case of difficulty call 0181 401 1234 to find your nearest stockist.

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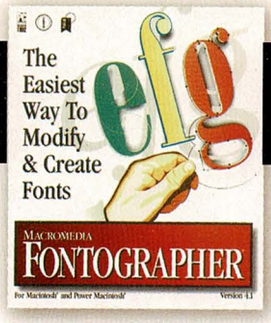

Create Your Own Fonts

- Put a Logo or Signature on a Key
- Customise Existing Fonts
- Add Foreign Accents and Special Characters

Fontographer is the easiest way to create and modify fonts. It contains all the tools you need to design, shape and kern your typefaces perfectly.

Within each letter you can draw or import any kind of graphic outline. You can open an existing font and add corporate logos, graphics, even signatures. Make some changes to your existing library, create bolder or lighter weights, compress the characters, add fractions, ligatures or just simply add foreign accents. Whether you are a professional typographer or one of the millions of people using computers and fonts, **Fontographer** is a valuable asset to your typographical library.

Fontographer generates fonts in all the popular formats—PostScript Type 1 and 3, TrueType and even Adobe MultipleMaster. The quality of the type is equal to, and in some cases can surpass, commercial faces. In fact many of the electronic typefaces you see around today have been created using Fontographer.

Fontographer is the tool of choice for novices and professionals alike.

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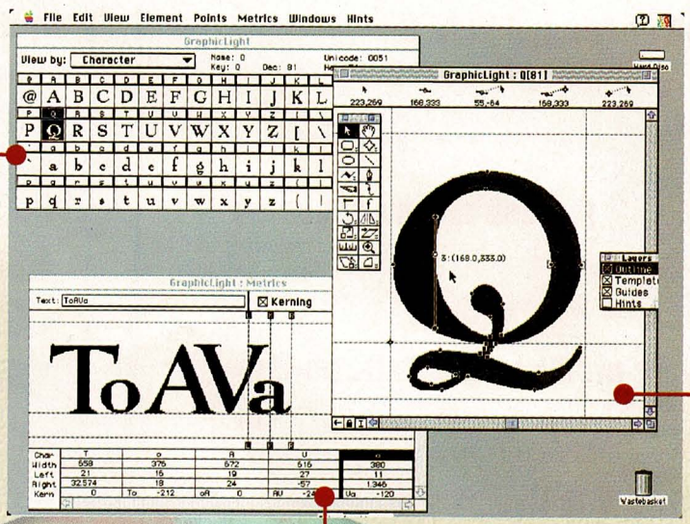

The font window displays your entire font. You can see the various graphics that are assigned to the different keys. Double-clicking on a character will bring up a window containing the outline graphic (or a blank canvas).

The Metrics window lets you space and kern your font quickly and easily. You can also automatically space and kern a font which makes life a lot easier.

This window displays your character as an editable outline. It contains a full set of drawing tools to enable you to precisely shape the graphic.

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MACFORMAT

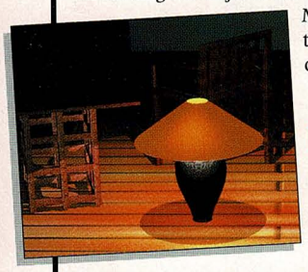
ISSUE 24 ■ MAY 1995

The Finder

HOW TO...

Set the 3D scene and light it 64

Drawing 3D objects is only the start – to create convincing 3D on your Mac, you need to compose scenes and light them. Here's how – try it for yourself with the demos from the last two issues of MACFORMAT!



Publish and be educated 71

DTP isn't just for creating publications; it can be a fun way of learning too. Here's how kids can learn from DTP at school and at home.

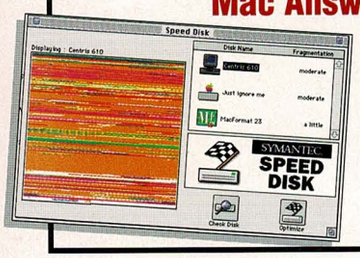
Protect your credit card details on-line 75

You'll soon be able to transfer money and pay for things via the Internet or on-line services, but can you be sure it's safe? Three of the UK's main service providers reveal how they keep your data secure.

Get it sorted with HyperCard 79

On this month's cover disk, MACFORMAT brings you a *HyperCard* stack that organises your files and applications for you – here's how it all works! Plus, your *HyperCard* queries answered and problems solved.

Mac Answers 83



More of your Mac and Performa problems solved by our team of experts, including how to replace the 'Welcome to Macintosh' screen with a message of your choosing, transfer data from PCs, improve your printouts and help new Macs read old Macs' disks.

WIN WIN WIN WIN

The best Mac game 133

Last month we rated *Marathon* the best Mac game ever, and now you can win one of ten copies, each worth £58, plus *Marathon* posters and lots of goodies for runners-up!

A Umax flatbed scanner 146

Win a Umax Vista-S8 colour flatbed scanner plus UTA-V6 transparency unit – worth over £2,100 in all! It's all you need to scan transparencies or documents up to full A4 size in full colour!

REGULARS

Welcome to MACFORMAT 6

Everything you ever wanted to know about us...

News 21

The first Mac clones go on sale in the US; an exclusive first look at Apple's new Pippin multimedia machine, System 7.5 upgraded already, plus more.

What's New 26

First looks at the latest new products, including an idea processor, a 'trackpad' and a 'joypad' for the Mac, plus an easy way to cope with Phoneday and a new typographic experience from Swifty.

MacroScope: Behind the News 30

How 'seedy' CD-ROMs are causing a crisis of confidence among parents in the US, and why one of the top scanner manufacturers says scanners should be even easier to use.

Apple Talk: Letters 36

Your views on everything Mac-related, including the price of software, the disappearance of old hardware, and violence in *Wolfenstein*...

Buying Advice 76

How to protect your rights when buying in the shops or by mail.

Back Issues 118

You don't have to live without those vital issues any longer...

Mail Order Offers 123

We searched far and wide for the top Mac products, so we could bring them to you at the best possible prices direct from MACFORMAT.

Gamebusters 132

Tips and cheats for all! How to play any level of *Rebel Assault* you fancy, plus more help for frustrated *Syndicate* wannabes...

Soapbox: 'What the Newton is good for' 136

Now don't laugh. It really is useful – a MACFORMAT reader shows how.

Free Reader Ads 138

Buy bargain kit, sell your old stuff off, and find a user group near you.

Soapbox: 'Balloon Help isn't' 140

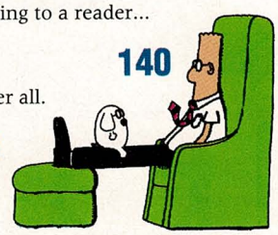
What Balloon 'Help' could become, according to a reader...

Dilbert 140

Why DTP may not be such a good idea after all.

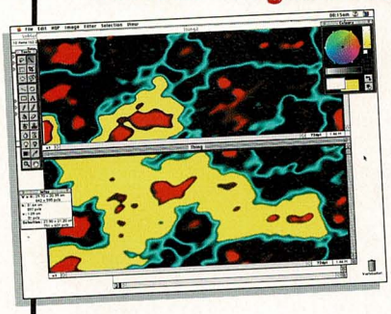
Next Month 145

What's coming in our next packed issue (if all goes according to plan, that is...)



REVIEWS

PhotoFix – A good Photoshop-alike! 94



True-colour image-editors have been appearing thick and fast recently, but so far they haven't really amounted to a serious challenge to *Photoshop*. This one is a third of the price and naturally has fewer features, but could it be a realistic alternative even so?

Multimedia:

The hottest new titles on CD-ROM – and we do mean *hottest*. 'Adult' CDs, plus sports and science...

Who Built America? 99
The Joy of Sex 100
This is Spinal Tap 100
National Lampoon's Blind Date 101
Let's Play Soccer 102
Let's Play Tennis 102
Golf with Tom Kite 103
For All Mankind 106
Mars Explorer & Venus Explorer 107
The Secrets of Stargate 108
Distant Suns 2 108

Training videos and CDs 110

More helpful than a paper manual and more patient than a real live tutor? Could these video and CD-ROM-based tutorial materials help you get to grips with your Mac and your programs?

Shareware Heaven 119

The latest low-cost and no-cost software fresh from the Internet, including a quilt designer, a fabulous *Asteroids* style game, an 'alien breeder', a Hebrew pronouncing utility, the good and the awful of 'neural networks' – and that's just the sensible bits...

Games Reviews

It's like a vintage games reunion this month, with a mob of re-makes, re-releases and updates... and one new title!

Sargon V 126
MacBestsellers 126
Wolfenstein: Third Encounter 128
Pebble Beach Golf Links 128
Harpoon Classic 130
Earth Command 131

Utilities: DiskTop 4.5 134

Before System 7, before MultiFinder, there was *DiskTop*. Many of its excellent file management functions are now part of the System, so what does the current commercial version still have to offer?

Utilities: Expresso 135

There are plenty of personal organisers around, integrating a calendar, address book and to-do list. So why is this one worth getting?

FEATURES

DTP ATE MY MAC!

Macintoshes and desktop publishing go together like paper and ink, whether you're producing a professional full-colour magazine or a club newsletter. But which is the best DTP program for you? We test every Mac DTP package available today and compare them feature by feature to help you choose! 42

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a
FrameMaker 4.0
QuarkXPress 3.31
ReadySetGo 6.03
VivaPress Pro 1.5

PianZhang 46

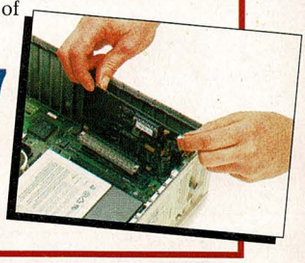
This pricey *XPress* add-on could lay out books for you automatically!

How to do DTP in ClarisWorks 52

You might be surprised just how powerful *Works* can be – we show you how to use *ClarisWorks* for page make-up, step-by-step.

Full-colour flatbed scanners 88

Import colour images, ready to manipulate in your graphics program or incorporate into your DTP pages! We test six of the most affordable colour flatbed scanners.



Basics: networks 57

Share a printer between several Macs, transfer files too big to fit on floppy disks, run programs on another machine – we show you how!

COVER DISKS

MACFORMAT is available every month with either a CD-ROM or a high density disk.

Your CD-ROM 8

Usable (save-disabled) versions of all the top DTP programs, plus *Photoshop 3.0* and *ClarisWorks 3.0*, 200Mb of the latest share-ware from the Internet, demos of many of the programs reviewed this month, and much more, including everything below...

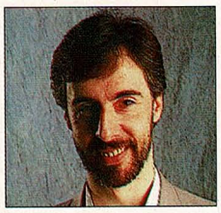
Your Cover Disk 14

Graphic Converter – it's almost a mini-*Photoshop!* A frantic *Defender* update! *MacCheckers*! Plus invaluable utilities to customise your Desktop, catalogue disks, simplify file opening, and more!

Welcome to MACFORMAT

All you ever wanted to know about MACFORMAT – and a bit you could have lived without. Talk about information overload!

ABOUT OUR WRITERS

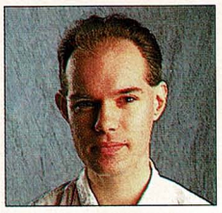


ALEX SUMMERSBY

An academic by training and Mac clever-clogs by experience, MACFORMAT's editor has picked up a lot by reading books and articles on the Mac, but he assures us it's not catching. His favourite Mac program is still *QuarkXPress.*

DEREK SMITH

MACFORMAT's Technical Writer and cover disk compiler is not only a Mac expert, he's also a trained horticulturalist, which means he knows how to kill a lot of plants. Must be why he's still enjoying killing Nazis in *Wolfenstein.*

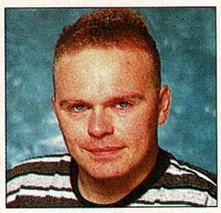


RICHARD HILL

Richard's training is in graphic design and training, if you see what I mean. He says his favourite program just now is something called *Super Metroid*, but on his Mac at the moment he's compulsively using *Netscape.* Help!

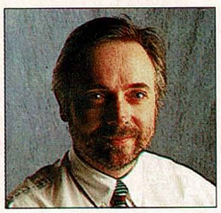
ANDY STORER

Andy is a veteran computing journalist who brings the perspective of his years of vast experience to his reviews. When asked for his favourite Mac program, he got all misty-eyed and muttered something about *Tetris...*



MARCUS DYSON

Photoshop fan Marcus, who uses *Photoshop* daily in his job as a *Photoshop*-based graphic designer, used to use *QuarkXPress* and *Photoshop* as one of Future's senior art editors. He declined to tell us his favourite program.



ROD LAWTON

As computer books editor in Future Publishing's books division, Rod uses *QuarkXPress* a great deal, but keeps writing time-saving *HyperCard* stacks that would save him time if only he didn't spend so long writing them.

YOU?

MACFORMAT is always looking for freelance contributors, so if you know all about some aspect of the Mac (particularly hardware!) and can write with wit and clarity, send us an unpublished sample article (photo not essential).

ABOUT MACFORMAT

Welcome again to MACFORMAT, Britain's best-selling Mac magazine! Whether you're a veteran or a novice, we'll help you get more out of your Macintosh, whatever you use it for!

Every month, MACFORMAT brings you *tips*, techniques and tutorials covering the range of Mac applications, from graphics, DTP, education, spreadsheets and databases to music, comms and games.

We'll bring you *features* about exciting Mac developments and novel uses, accompanied by cover disk programs whenever possible, so you can discover what your machine can do and try things you haven't tried before.

We'll keep you up-to-date with all the Mac-related *news*, and also keep you informed about the wider issues, the people behind the headlines and the stories behind the stories.

We'll bring you authoritative *reviews* of interesting and affordable products, with clear buying recommendations. MACFORMAT does not review demos or unfinished programs. We review only the finished products you could buy yourself, to help you decide whether to buy or not.

MACFORMAT's covermounted *disks and CD-ROMs* offer you demos so you can try software before you buy, useful utilities (specially chosen to complement features in the magazine), selected shareware programs, games, readers' contributions and more, every month.

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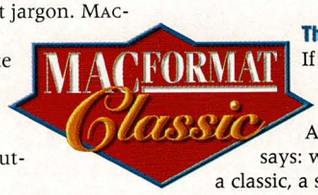
ABOUT OUR REVIEWS

Every MACFORMAT review is designed to inform you in detail what you'd be getting if you bought the product and help you decide whether it's worth your money. It tells you the essentials, without jargon. MACFORMAT reviews only finished products, and we rate them on this scale:

- 80+% means excellent.
- 70+% means well worthwhile, though not outstanding.
- 60+% means good, but with a few shortcomings or some limitations.
- 50+% means acceptable but flawed.
- A rating below 50% means think carefully before parting with your money.



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If a product earns a rating of 90% or more, we'll give it a MACFORMAT Classic Award. This means what it says: we judge the product to be a classic, a standard-setter of its type,

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- We regret that because we have so much to do and can barely cope as it is, we simply cannot reply to letters or faxes personally, even if you include an SAE, or to e-Mail. Nor can we answer technical queries over the phone – sorry!

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StrataVision 3D 4.0
The power to model, render and animate in 3D. Transform your digital dreams into virtual realities with StrataVision 3D's high-end modelling tools,

Sketch! 2.0
A new dimension in illustration and design. Powerful 3D NURBS-based modelling, real-world texturing, and photorealistic rendering.

CameraMan 2.5
Records all screen activity and system sounds to a QuickTime movie.

SUITE ONE
SuperCard 2.0
VideoShop 3.0
Infini-D 2.6
CameraMan 2.5

SUITE TWO
SuperCard 2.0
VideoShop 3.0
StrataVision 3D 4.0
Instant Replay 1.0

SUITE THREE
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VideoShop 3.0
Sketch! 2.0
Instant Replay 1.0

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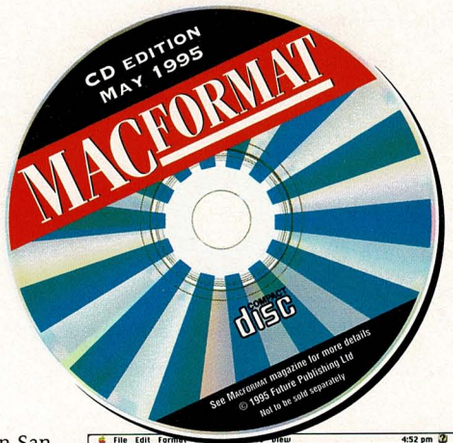


This surely must be one of the best CD-ROMs that we've offered you so far. Derek Smith takes you through the demos of the industry's top titles, plus so much more...

FLOPPY OR CD?

MACFORMAT is available in two editions every month: one with a CD-ROM and one with a high-density floppy disk. If you bought the CD-ROM edition, your CD includes a folder containing everything on the HD disk, details of which are on page 14.

This month's CD-ROM is a special edition covering the whole world of desktop publishing. But it also has so much other excellent software that it delivers more than Postman Pat does on Christmas Eve. We even have a demo of the almighty *Photoshop* (reviewed last month) and its challenger, *PhotoFix*. To get started with these, see page 12. For a review of *Photofix* turn to page 94. Meanwhile, here's a closer look at what's on the CD-ROM this month.

- **Highlights:** aliases of the best bits of the CD-ROM to get you started quickly and easily.
- **Floppy:** everything that's on the floppy disk (plus a little extra). See page 14 for exactly what's on this month's disk.
- **Demos:** interactive and rolling demos of software featured in this and past issues of MACFORMAT.
- **Shareware City:** all the best software from the Internet that's been released in the last month.
- **Shareware in MACFORMAT:** contains all the software reviewed in 'Shareware and PD', which starts on page 119.
- **San Francisco Video:** a video about the recent Mac Expo that was held in San Francisco.
- **Readers' Corner:** the great software sent in by you, our readers.

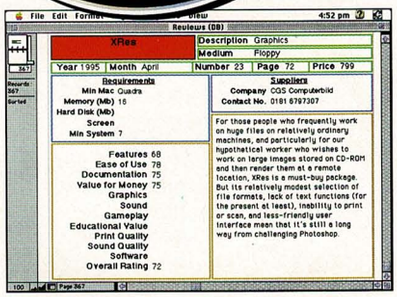
ClarisWorks 3.0

INTEGRATED PACKAGE

Requires: any Mac, 1Mb free RAM, System 6.0.5 or later

ClarisWorks is widely accepted as the best Works package on the Mac. It has recently been updated to version 3.0, and we bring you the save disabled version to try out. You can decide for yourself whether to buy it or upgrade from an earlier version. If you already have version 2, you may not see many differences, except for a word count facility – at last! The main change is that there is now much more on-line help, which is ideal for beginners.

The first thing you may want to use the demo for is opening our database of reviews. Once you've installed the demo on your hard disk, you'll find the database at the bottom of the CD's main window. To open it, simply double-click on its icon. To find a particular review, select **Find** from the **Layout** menu.


Reuleux (DB)
XRes
Description Graphics
Medium Floppy
Year 1995 Month April
Number 23 Page 72 Price 799
Requirements
Min Mac Quadra
Memory (Mb) 16
Hard Disk (Mb)
Screen
Min System 7
Suppliers
Company CGS Computerbild
Contact No. 0181 6797307
Features 68
Ease of Use 78
Documentation 75
Value for Money 75
Graphics
Sound
Gameplay
Educational Value
Print Quality
Sound Quality
Software
Overall Rating 72
For those people who frequently work on huge files on relatively ordinary machines, and particularly for our hypothetical worker who wishes to work on large images stored on CD-ROM and then render them at a remote location, XRes is a must-buy package. But its relatively modest selection of file formats, lack of text functions (for the present at least), inability to print or scan, and less-friendly user interface mean that it's still a long way from challenging Photoshop.

On the CD this month you'll find a database of all our reviews, up to and including MACFORMAT 23.

Coral Reef

MULTIMEDIA

Requires: LCII or better, 1Mb free RAM, System 7 or later, 13-inch colour monitor

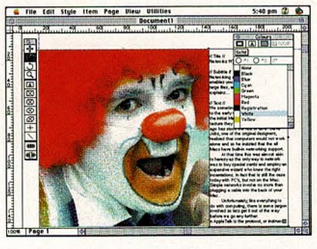
Coral Reef was reviewed in MACFORMAT 22, and it received a commendable 76%. This is your chance to sample the incredible beauty of this multi-coloured multimedia product, which touches upon how man is having an effect on the fragile ecology of the reef. Included with the many stunning pictures are QuickTime movies of life underwater. To run the demo, simply double-click on its icon.

QUITTING DEMOS

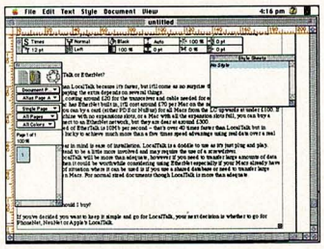
Some of the rolling demos require you to press **[command] Q** to quit them.

GET DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Complementing our massive head-to-head review of the top desktop publishing packages, we have five demos of the leading DTP software for you to try out. Each demo has a function or two disabled, but otherwise they are the full programs, so they should give you an excellent idea of their respective merits.

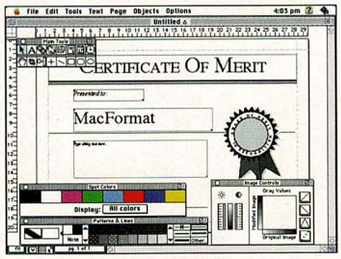


QuarkXPress has become the leading DTP program. Our demo contains versions for Mac and PowerMac. Each enables you to save and print, but you get a demo watermark on each page.

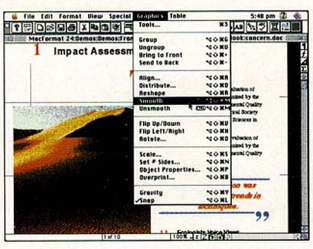


VivaPress is relatively unknown in Britain, so here's your chance to check out the German product that is challenging *PageMaker* and *Quark* at their own game.

Adobe has now taken over *PageMaker* from Aldus and here is the demo of the new rebadged version, hot off the presses. Once the leading DTP package, it has faced stiff competition from *QuarkXPress*.



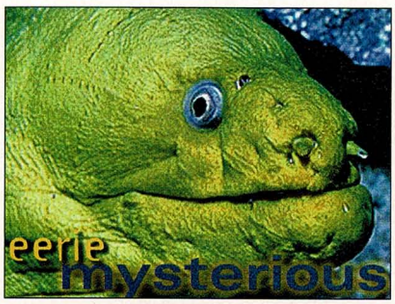
Our *HomePublisher* demo includes many auto-create documents. These enable you to produce high quality documents in a short time. *HomePublisher* is the ideal entry-level desktop publishing package.



FrameMaker is gaining wide acceptance as a high-end DTP solution for producing large publications, books, and technical documentation. Get to grips with the program using our demo version.

OUT OF TIME

The demo of *form●Z* on last month's CD-ROM had a time limitation that expired before the magazine went on sale. In order to make it run, put your Mac's internal clock back a year by using the **General Controls** Control Panel, or **Date and Time** in System 7.5 (both found in the Control Panels from the **Apple** menu).



Dive into the educational demo of *Coral Reef*, which made me realise that MACFORMAT's happy art editor must have taken up swimming recently.

Up, up, up and away with *Daring to Fly*, a superb rolling demo that shows you the early days of man's attempts at flight.

Expresso gets a MACFORMAT Classic award in this issue. Test our time limited demo to see if you agree.

Daring to Fly

MULTIMEDIA

Requires: LCII or better, 1Mb of free RAM, System 7 or later, 13-inch colour monitor

Daring to Fly is a multimedia CD from the makers of *Coral Reef*. It tells the story of the early pioneers of aviation. This rolling demo gives you a glimpse of the product, but for a clearer picture, read the review in MACFORMAT 23.

San Francisco Video

QUICKTIME MOVIE

Requires: LCII or better

We've put together for you a special video about the recent Mac Expo in San Francisco. The video includes several interviews about the latest products and developements in the Mac world. Running the video is easy: you simply drag its icon onto any QuickTime Movie player. If you don't have one of those, don't panic. Just open the *FastPlayer* folder, drag the movie onto the *FastPlayer* icon and Bob's your uncle.

Expresso

PERSONAL ORGANISER

Requires: LC or better, 2Mb free RAM, System 7 or later, colour monitor

There are many personal organisers on the market, but *Expresso* (reviewed on page 135) seems to be one of the best. It has clear colourful screens and an easy-to-use interface. This demo is fully functional, but is limited for 60 days, after which it will stop working. Still, that should be long enough to discover if you have the self discipline to keep your records up to date each day.

Flashback

PLATFORM GAME

Requires: Colour Mac, 2.5Mb free RAM

Platform action games are a bit thin on the ground in Mac-land, so *Flashback* is very welcome. It comes from the people who brought you *Another World*, reviewed in MACFORMAT 21, and it has a similar style. But it's more dynamic and the main character is well animated, better than a Rolf Harris animation in fact. This version gives you several complete levels to try out. Controls are listed in the game, but they take a bit of getting used to. Try using combinations of **[shift]** with the movement keys.

Peter and the Wolf

MUSIC

Requires: LCII or better, System 7 or later, 2.3Mb free RAM

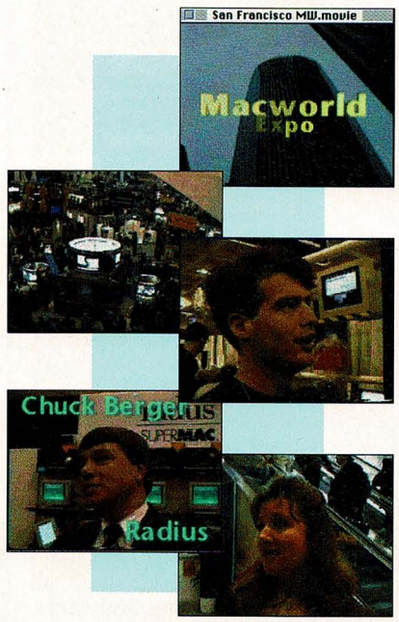
Peter and the Wolf was reviewed in MACFORMAT 22. It received 83% and was described as 'absolutely superb'. The animation was created by none other than Bugs Bunny's animator, Chuck Jones. The demo gives you a taste of the full product and includes a video showing you some of the big name stars who lend their voices to the narration, like Kirstie Alley (Rebeccah Howe in *Cheers)* and Ross Malinger (Jonah in *Sleepless in Seattle*), who is the voice of Peter. Operation is simple: once the demo's loaded, just place the mouse cursor over a character to hear the music associated with that character.

INSTALLATION

Some of the demos come compacted. You'll need to extract them onto your hard drive before you can use them.

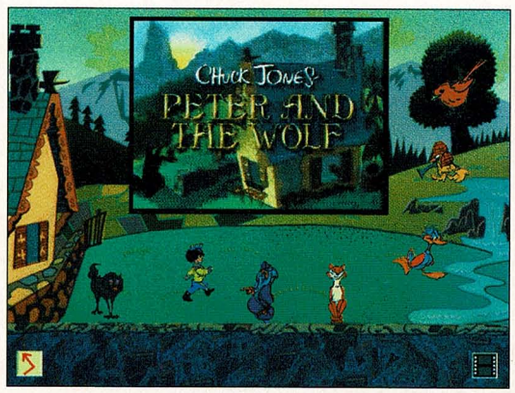
NEED FOR SPEED

If a demo or game is running slowly, then drag the whole folder onto your hard disk and run it from there. It should run much faster.



We have to justify our jaunts to America, so here are our holiday snaps from San Francisco.

Flashback is a futuristic platform game where you get to shoot Ogres. What are they doing there?



Shock news! Wolf eats duck and is then gunned down in hail of bullets. Young boy sought in connection.

ALIAS TIP

To access your favourite folder from the CD more quickly, why not make an alias of it and keep the alias on your Desktop. Just click on the folder and go to **Make Alias** from the **File** menu.

It may take a while, but using a Mac and *Sculpt 3D*, you too could create images like these. Perhaps.

3D Software

GRAPHICS

Requires: Colour Mac

Continuing our season of 3D software and graphics, we bring you a range of pictures created in *Sculpt 3D*. There was a save-disabled demo of the program on MACFORMAT 22's CD-ROM, but it might take you a while to achieve results like these. You'll need a graphics program to open the pictures, but *GraphicConverter*, also on the CD-ROM, will do just fine.

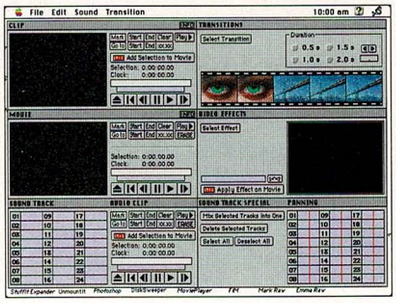
Readers' Corner

YOUR PROGRAMS

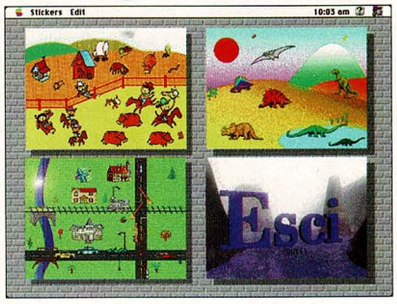
Requires: see individual Read Me files

Readers' Corner is now firmly established as a base for unusual and inventive software. This month we feature *Stickers*, a truly beautiful children's program from Italy, which will delight and occupy any child. There are some fun Desktop textures from Fergus Corbett, and a mini video editing suite by Mathias Tschopp, which looks very professional indeed. And finally, there are a range of fascinating *HyperCard* stacks from Chris Aldridge, Mark Coates, Martin McDonald and Stephen Hunt, who sends in a sample from his latest fantasy book.

You'll find a new section in Readers' Corner called Art Gallery where we'll be featuring graphics created by you. If you have produced anything artistic on a Mac and want to show it off to the world, then just send it to: Disc Editor, MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon, BA1 2BW. There's a competition for the best entry. For further details see the *SimpleText* ReadMe file in the Art Gallery folder on the CD-ROM.



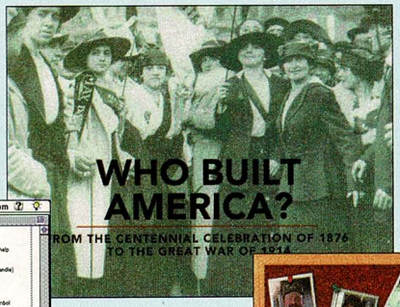
Show off your programs and art work by sending them in to MACFORMAT and we'll put them on the CD.



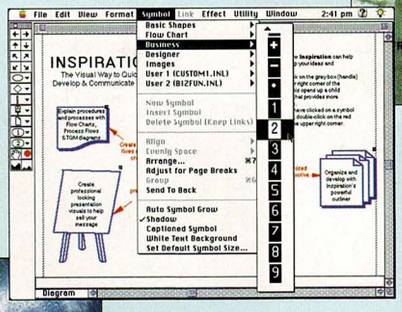
TOO MANY TO MENTION...

Unfortunately we can't tell you about every good piece of software on the CD because there's just so much on it. So here is a run down of some of the best of the rest...

Who Built America is a social study of that country's past and has nothing to do with Walt Disney.



Flight Commander isn't a flight sim so much as an air combat simulator. See for yourself with our playable demo.



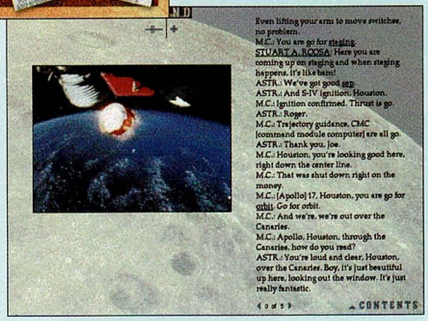
Getting your ideas organised would take *Inspiration*, and by a piece of luck that's just what we've got on the CD.

Sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. It's all on our CD with the rolling demo of *This is Spinal Tap*.

Sample the Artbeat range of graphics with several example files for you to load into any graphics program.

Somewhat like *Missile Command*, *Outpost Nexus* puts you in charge of defending cities against marauding aliens' spaceships.

Infotron is a gorgeous shareware game that sees you running around a maze collecting objects.



Take a trip into space with *For All Mankind*, which tells the story of the Apollo space missions.

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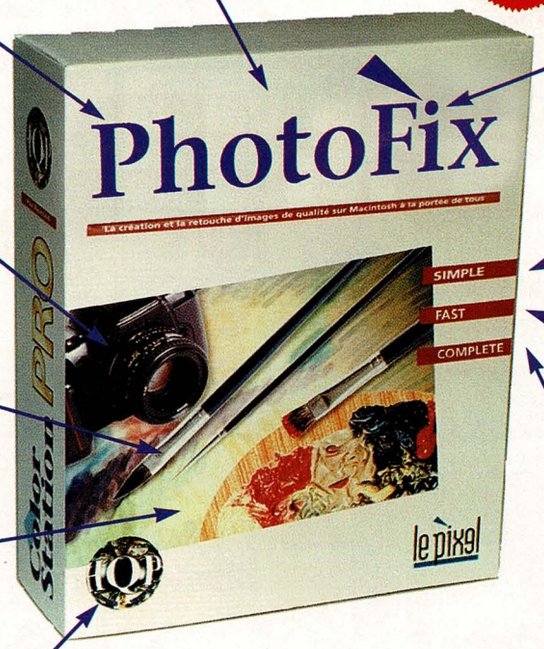
Fix... your images on any colour Mac or PowerMac with as little as 1.5 Mb of available RAM. At the office or at home, PhotoFix™ is the ideal software to work efficiently and produce professional quality images!



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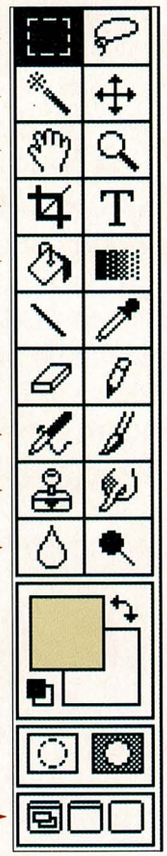
PHOTOSHOP 3.0 MASTERCLASS

Photoshop is one of the most successful Macintosh programs of the '90s. It combines excellent paint features with very powerful image processing functions. On top of this it has the facility to load and save files in numerous popular formats, making it a powerful tool for converting files, and a useful application for swapping images between different hardware platforms. Here, Marcus Dyson shows you how to get started with our demo. For a review of the latest version see MACFORMAT 22.

Photoshop Toolbox



The selection tool: enables you to select areas of an image.

Lasso tool: a freehand selection tool drawn by the mouse.

Magic wand: click on a part of an image to select all connecting areas with a similar colour.

Move: used to move all of an image within its image window.

Hand tool: scroll around an image that is larger than the window it is being displayed in.

Magnifying glass tool: click to zoom in, or press **[option]** and click to zoom out.

Crop tool: crop unwanted areas from an image by dragging, then clicking within the marquee.

Text tool: brings up a text-entry window. Text is drawn in the current foreground colour.

Fill tool: produces a paint-pot fill. Works on a similar basis to the magic wand tool.

Gradient tool: to create smooth graduated fills. Parameters set in the **options** menu.

Line tool: you can draw straight lines in the current foreground colour.

Eye dropper: select colours from the current image as the foreground colour.

Eraser tool: deletes areas of an image according to the shape set in the brushes palette.

Pencil: freehand painting strokes with hard edges.

Airbrush: soft edged airbrush style painting effects.

Paintbrush: similar to the pencil tool, but the paintbrush gives softer edges.

Rubber stamp: clone areas of an image onto a different part of the screen. **[Option]** click selects the pick-up zone.

Smudge: smudging effect, as if a finger had been dragged across a pastel drawing.

Focus: sharpen or blur the appearance of an image in a specific area.

Exposure: acts like a darkroom printer's dodge and burn techniques to selectively lighten or darken portions of an image.

Active colour wells: shows the two currently active colours. Top is foreground, bottom is background colour. Arrows at top right will swap the current colours.

Selection modes: the two icons below the colour wells indicate the current selection mode.

Screen view: images can either be displayed in windows, shown full screen with a menu bar or full screen with no menu bar.

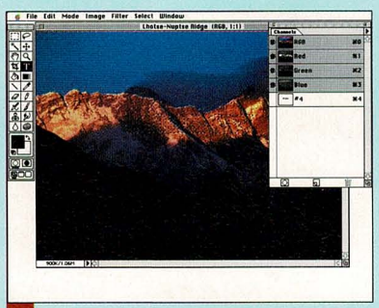
INTERFACE

All the *Photoshop* palettes are turned on or off using the palettes item in the **Window** menu. While you are working, all palettes can be temporarily turned off by simply pressing the **[tab]** key.

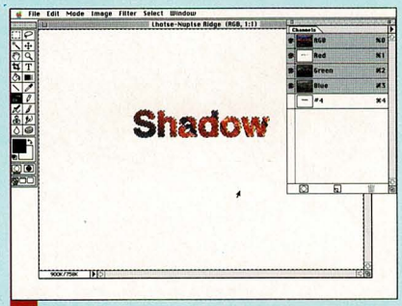
BEING SELECTIVE

Using the select tool in conjunction with the **[shift]** key will enable you to add areas to a selection, and the **[command]** key will remove areas from a selection.

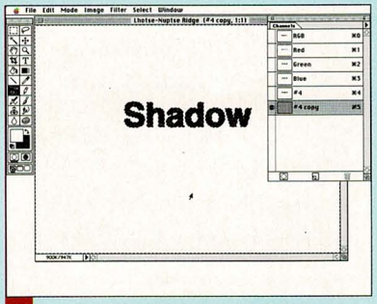
FIRST PHOTOSHOP STEPS



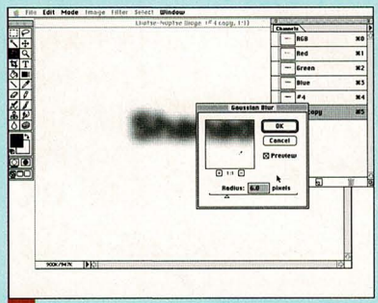
1 Open any image. Using the text tool, enter some text and position it on your image. This may take a few attempts to get right. Don't worry, just delete it and try again until you're happy.



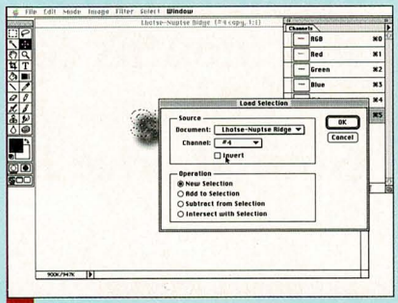
2 Now choose **Save Selection** from the **Select** menu, and click **OK**. A new channel will appear on your channels menu (shown here in the top-right of the screen), if you have it open. Delete your text.



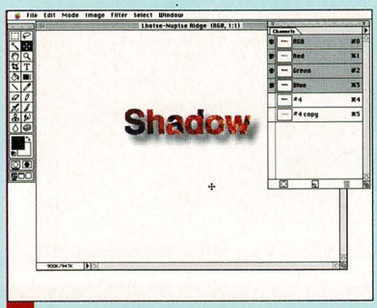
3 Choose **Load Selection** from the **Select** menu, then **Inverse**. Press **[delete]**. Select channel 4 in your channels menu, and use the little arrow to select duplicate channel.



4 Make the background colour white, then drag the current channel (#4 Copy) down and to the right. Select **Gaussian Blur** from the **Filters/Blur** menu. Slide the arrow to 6, and click **OK**.

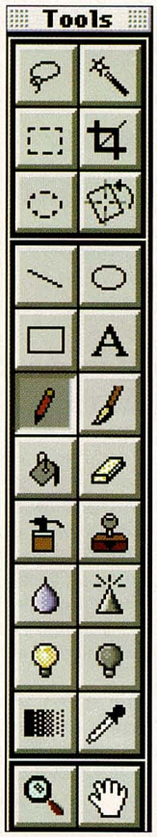


5 Now select **Load Selection** from the **Select** menu. When the requester comes up make sure that #4 is in the Channel window, and click **OK**. When the selection has loaded, hit **[delete]**.



6 Click Channel 0 in the Channels palette. Select **Load Selection**. Load channel #4 Copy. Choose **Adjust/Brightness/Contrast** in the **Image** menu. Slide Brightness to –60 and Contrast to +60.

PhotoFix Main Tools Menu



Lasso tool: a freehand selection tool drawn by the mouse.

Magic wand: click on a part of an image to select all connecting areas with a similar colour.

Rectangle select: click and drag this across your image to select a square or rectangle.

Crop tool: crop unwanted area from an image by dragging, then clicking within the marquee.

Ellipse select tool: make a circular or elliptical selection of the active image.

Rotate tool: click on the image to define the centre of rotation, then drag to rotate.

Line tool: for drawing straight lines in the current foreground colour.

Ellipse tool: use for drawing circles and ellipses.

Rectangle tool: used for drawing rectangles.

Text tool: used for applying typography to an illustration.

Pencil tool: used for creating freehand hard-edged shapes.

Brush tool: used for creating freehand soft-edged shapes.

Fill tool: used to flood fill a selection with the active colour.

Eraser tool: deletes the illustration to leave the current background colour.

Airbrush: soft-edged airbrush style painting effects

Rubber stamp tool: pick-up the image from one part of the picture and copy it down elsewhere.

Blur/Sharpen tools: selectively soften or sharpen the apparent focus.

Lighten/Darken tools: increase or decrease the apparent exposure of areas.

Graduate fill tool: creates gradient from the foreground to the background colour.

Eyedropper: pick up colours to use as the current foreground colour.

Magnifying-glass tool: click to zoom in, **[option]** click to zoom out.

Hand tool: scroll the image around in the screen window.

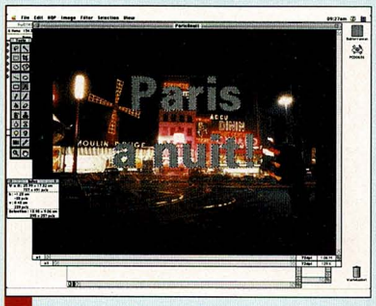
PHOTOFIX 2.8 MASTERCLASS

PhotoFix is an image processing/photo re-touching package along the lines of *Photoshop*. It doesn't have quite so many options as *Photoshop*, but it's happy to run on a far more modest Mac. It has all the features a non-professional user would require. Once again, Marcus Dyson shows you how to get started with the demo on our CD-ROM. For a review, turn to page 94.

DOUBLE-CLICK

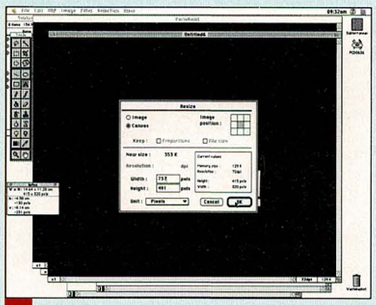
Double-clicking on various tools in *PhotoFix* has various effects. For instance, double-click the eraser to delete the entire image.

FIRST STEPS IN PHOTOFIX

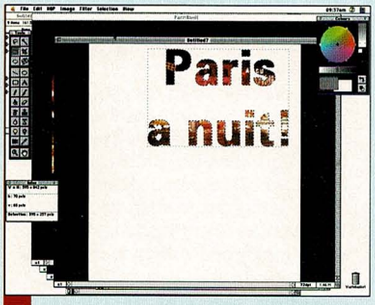


1 Load up a picture, and use the text tool to apply some appropriate text. When in the text requester box, make sure you check the Floating Selection box.

2 Select **Separate mask** from the **Selection** menu. This will save out your text selection as a separate document, but make sure you check your spelling out in the dictionary first!



3 Use **Re-size** from the **Image** menu to discover the size of your image. Now switch to the mask document and use **Re-size** again to make this the same size. Check the **Canvas** button.



4 Open the original image. Load mask, which you can load from any other open document, if you wish. Select **Copy** from the **Edit** menu, create a new document and paste the selection into it.

5 In your original document, delete the image. Reload your text selection, and with the background colour as mid grey, delete the selection. Use the **Image/Settings/Blur** menu to soften the edges.

6 Now copy your text from the document you pasted it into – its selection should still be active. Paste it into the document with the grey shadow text, and drag it to a suitable position.

ALL STATIONS

PhotoFix is actually the latest upgraded version of the 'pro' version of *ColorStation*. If your needs are even more modest, you can buy *ColorStation 2* at a bargain price from MACFORMAT's mail order pages, which start on page 123. You can do greyscale work with *ColorStation*, but if your needs are purely mono we're also selling *GrayStation 2* for a bargain price.

Your cover disk

MACFORMAT
Graphic Converter
Décor 2.5 ■ CatFinder v1.51 ■ Delirium
■ Photoshop Plug-ins ■ MacCheckers
■ Default Folder ■ Kill! FinderZoome ■
Movie2Scr ■ NoDesktopCleanup ■
PaperClip ■ Announce ■ Get Info
3 MEGABYTES OF GREAT SOFTWARE!

With the sheer quality and quantity that we squeeze onto the floppy disk every month, there's something to please everyone, all the time. Derek Smith tells all...

EXTRA SOFTWARE
If you have the CD-ROM edition of this issue, the Floppy folder on the CD contains all of the software on these pages.

Our reader survey shows that 9% of our readership have black-and-white Macs. So if you're one of that 9%, don't worry: while some of these programs require a colour monitor, we haven't forgotten you and will always endeavour to include programs you can run on your Mac. Here's what we have this month...

Décor 2.5

UTILITY

Requires: colour Mac, System 7 or later, PowerMac native

System 7.5, along with several shareware programs, enables you to create a fancy Desktop made up of a repeating pattern. *Décor* is an Extension that enables you to have a single large picture on your Desktop instead.

To use *Décor*, just drop the Extension on your System Folder, so it can be automatically placed in your Extensions folder. Restart your Mac and then drag a graphics file onto the program's icon. *Décor* supports several common graphics formats such as PICT. After a few seconds it will appear as your Desktop background. Please note that this does use a fair amount of RAM though, so if you're short of memory on your Macintosh you may want to keep an eye on your machine's available RAM.

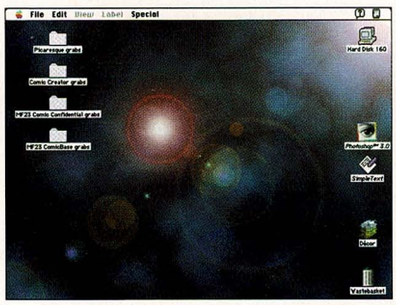
Default Folder 2.5.1

UTILITY

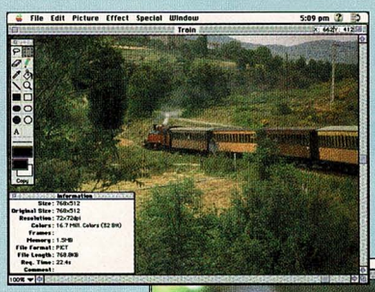
Shareware $25

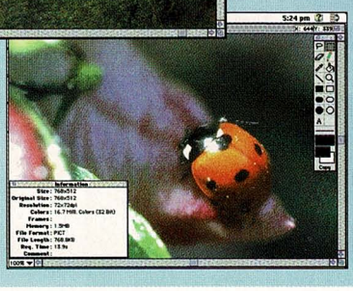
This utility is genuinely useful. It adds three menus to every **Open** and **Save** dialogue box. The first menu enables you to go directly to a user defined list of favourite folders. The second menu enables you to allocate a particular folder as a default for that program. This means that when you first open the program and select **Open**, it will also show you that folder.

The last menu shows you a list of all the disks currently on the Desktop, enabling you to skip the **Desktop** button and jump straight to another disk. I don't know if Apple will absorb this into the next System update, but I bet a few of its programmers have this installed on their own Macintoshes.



You have to stare at it, so you may as well make your Desktop as appealing as possible with Décor.





You'll be hard pressed to find a graphic file that *GraphicConverter* can't open.

GraphicConverter 2.0.6

GRAPHICS

Requires: any Mac, 2Mb of free RAM, colour monitor

Have you ever come across a graphic file that you can't open? You just know that it'll be the most impressive picture ever, but you can't find out. Well cheer up, because *GraphicConverter* will open just about every imaginable file format there is, including many for other computer platforms such as the PC, Amiga and ST.

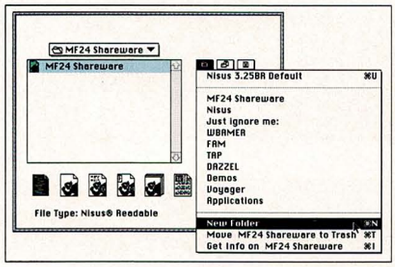
Operation of the program is simple. Drag the desired graphics file onto the *GraphicConverter* program icon and it will open up. Then select Save As and you have a wide choice of formats to save in. You should now be able to convert any graphic file format into any other format. This is particularly handy for converting a file so that it can be recognised by your usual software package. You can also save files in Startup Screen format – see page 83.

START HERE

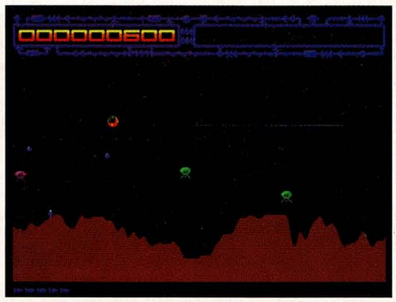
High density floppy disks normally contain a maximum of 1.4 megabytes of software, but to bring you as much as possible, we use a compression program to fit more on. This means you must decompress the software before using it – you'll need 2-3Mb of hard disk space. We also recommend that you should make a backup of the MACFORMAT cover disk, just in case anything goes wrong. Here's what to do...

- Make sure the original cover disk is write-protected (move the tab so that you can see through the hole).
- Insert the MACFORMAT cover disk.
- Drag the disk's icon over your hard disk's icon.
- The contents are copied onto your hard disk, but are still compressed and cannot be used yet.
- Drag the cover disk icon to the Wastebasket to eject the disk.
- Insert a blank high density disk.
- Drag the MACFORMAT 24 folder from your hard disk onto the blank disk's icon to make your backup.
- To decompress the cover disk, open the MACFORMAT 24 folder on your hard disk.
- Double-click on the MACFORMAT 24 icon.
- Click **Continue**.
- A box then asks you where you want to save the software. Choose the place on your hard disk where you want everything stored and click **Save**.

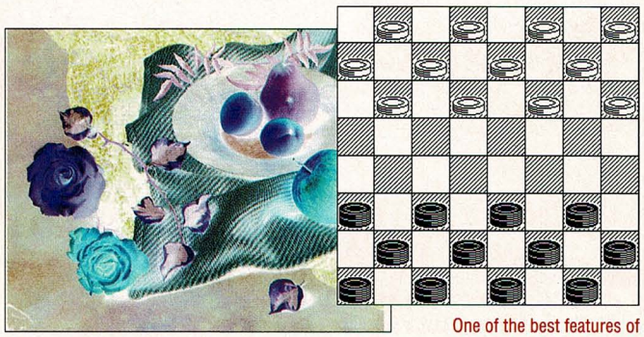
Before installing the cover disk we recommend that you back up any important work on your hard disk. This sensible precaution will avoid problems should any software not be compatible with your setup. We make every effort to check our disks for compatibility and viruses, but the information here is intended as a guide only, and MACFORMAT cannot be held responsible for any damage to data, any inability to use this software or any resulting losses. So please, back up first.



Like a ferocious gerbil, the Mac needs a little taming. *Default Folder* is the utility with a tiny chair and whip.



I'm sorry, Dave, but your spaceship in *Delirium* seems remarkably similar to the pods in 2001.



With our Plug-ins you can invert individual colours of an image, or, as in this case, invert the whole thing.

One of the best features of *MacCheckers* is the ability to set up the board any way you like. Here I have given myself a slight advantage.

Delirium

ARCADE GAME

Requires: LC or better, colour monitor, System 6.0.7 or later, 2Mb free RAM

Delirium is a direct copy of an old game called *Defender*. The idea is to fly along the surface of a planet and shoot the alien spaceships. These spaceships are intent on kidnapping your fellow humans who stand on the planet surface (and they don't seem to put up much of a fight). If an alien captures one of your men, shoot the craft and catch the man in mid air for a bonus. If an alien succeeds in carrying a human to the top of the screen, it turns into a mutant purple monster that will hunt you down.

MacCheckers

DRAUGHTS

Requires: Any Mac

A while back we gave you a chess game from GNU, and for those of you who are tired of being thrashed, we now bring you an excellent draughts game. Not only is it freeware, but it will run on a black and white screen, and only needs a tiny amount of RAM, so it is suitable for any Mac from a Plus. It comes with a variety of saved games for you to enjoy, and there are a number of difficulty settings, so it should cater for everyone from beginners to experts.

Photoshop Plug-ins

ADDITIONS

Requires: Photoshop

Alan Smith from Norwich has sent in a range of *Photoshop* Plug-ins that perform very specific tasks. These include a range of filters that can alter the individual bit planes of an image. Full details and explanations are included in the Read Me file, but to install, just pop the particular Plug-ins you want into your Plug-ins folder.

Announce

NETWORKING

Requires: AppleTalk network

If you use a network then you'll probably be interested in this. Once you've installed the Extension on all the Macs you want to communicate with, you can send messages across your network by simply opening the application and typing a message in. It's not as sophisticated as a commercial program, but it's more than adequate for many people's needs.

There are plenty of options, including the ability to send the same message to many people on the network, adding audio to messages, and playing alert sounds on the target machines. If you don't have a network but are interested in setting one up, then see our basics guide that starts on page 57. It may well be much easier than you think.

Also featuring

VARIOUS

Requires: see individual Read Me files

CatFinder 1.51 is a replacement for an earlier version that was on MACFORMAT 22's disk, which contained a fault. *Get Info* is a simple utility that opens the information window for a file, application, whatever. But this has the added advantage of telling you about the original if you drop its alias on *Get Info's* icon.

Whenever you open or close a window, you get a zoom effect, which is pretty but wastes time. *Kill FinderZooms* will hack your Finder file to stop this effect. *PaperClip* is a last ditch utility that tries to eject a floppy disk stuck in the drive, before you resort to a real paperclip.

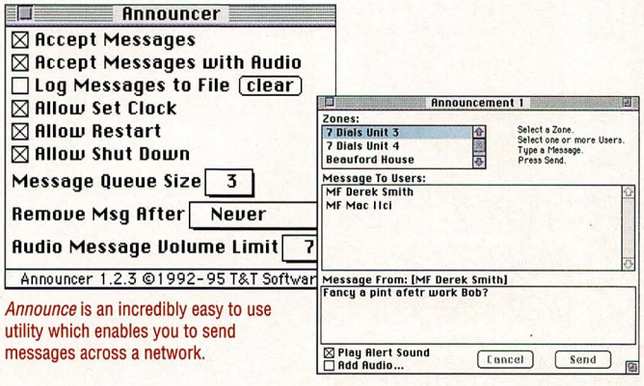
NoDesktopCleanup adds confirmation boxes to many commands such as **Shutdown**, so you don't select them accidentally. Ideal for the terminally nervous. Finally, *Movie2Snd* enables you to extract the sound from a QuickTime movie and save it as a stand alone file. For one possible use see the 'Saving CD Music On Your Mac' boxout on page 85.

YOUR MOVE

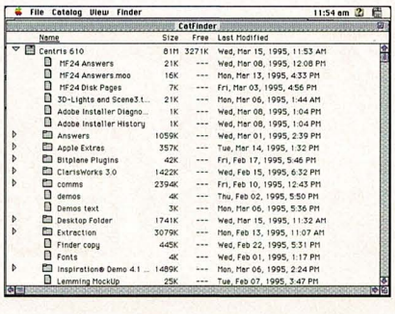
To complement *MacCheckers*, we included *GNU Chess* on the floppy disk of MACFORMAT 11.

READ ME

Always read the Read Me files, especially if they are labelled 'important'. Some people didn't with *MacPrefect* and got into trouble!



Announce is an incredibly easy to use utility which enables you to send messages across a network.



Catalogue your disk collection with *CatFinder* so you no longer need to wade through it all to find a specific file.

GOT A PROBLEM?

If the cover-mounted high density disk or CD-ROM you have is defective, return it to us and we will replace it. Please make sure you have followed the installation procedures described in these pages correctly, to ensure that there is a physical problem with the disk itself. Otherwise, the replacement will be just the same!

Return HD disks to:
Discopy Labs
PO Box 21
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Return CD-ROMs to:
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Enclose a self-addressed padded envelope (but we'll pay return postage) with the disk or CD, and a description of the fault. Please do not return disks or CDs to the editorial office; we don't hold stocks of them and can only refer you to the addresses above.

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Confused as to which Mac to go for? Can't decide on the configuration you need? Like to make you Mac go faster, display more colors etc? Don't be shy ask the guy! CW's little helpers are just a phone call away and ready to give unbiased advice on all aspects of Macintosh computing. **Just call 0171 724 4104 or 0181 838 5553 NOW!**

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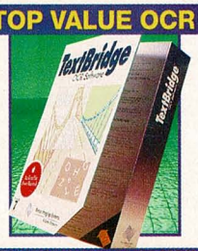

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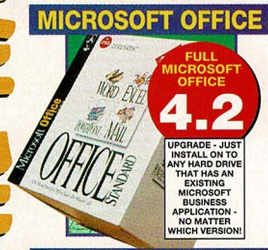

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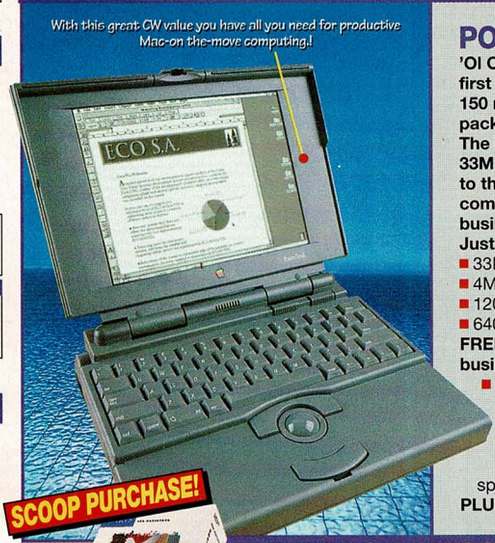

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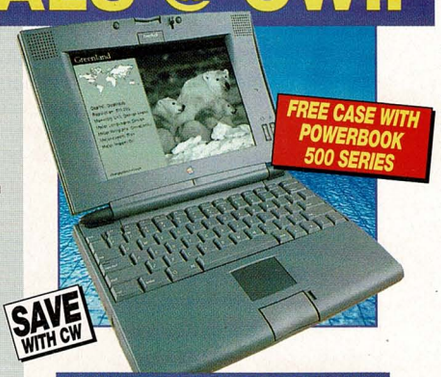

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The Power Macintosh 7100/66 is Apple's mid-range Power Macintosh and offers increased RAM capacity and NuBus expansion over the Power Macintosh 6100 series. In addition it features a speedy 66Mhz version of the RISC PowerPC 601 chip with 32K on-chip cache.
CW recommends this top-flight machine to publishers, CAD users and people who need the benefit of NuBus slots, but at this price it's a steal for any Macintosh user!

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- 66Mhz processor speed
- 3 NuBus expansion slots - for adding Video Grabbers, Accelerators etc.
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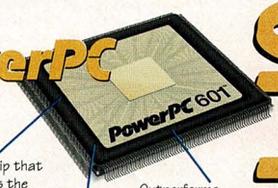

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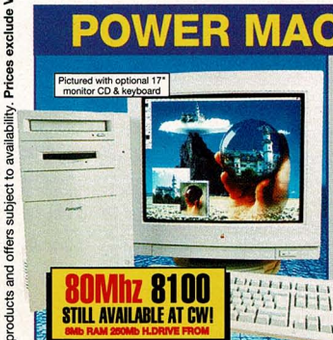

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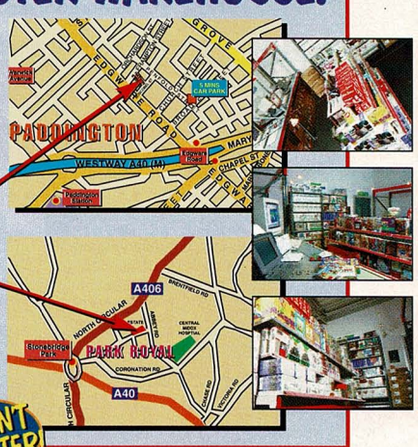

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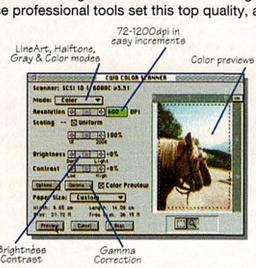

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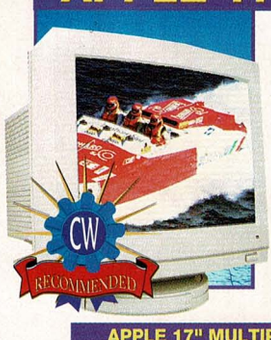

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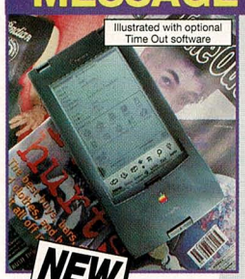

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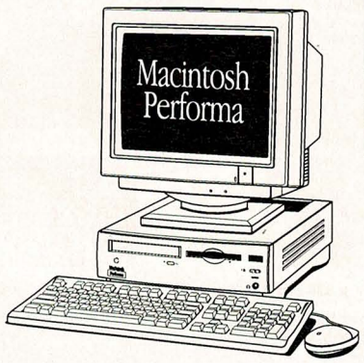

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MACFORMAT NEWS

Take a look at Apple's new Pippin console. Plus: multimedia is growing fast, and the clones are here at last. Richard Hill reports...

Mac clones go on sale

Stephen Kahng is the head of Power Computing, the American company that promises to be the first on the market with Mac-compatible computers. Backed by Olivetti, the company is new to the computer industry but is confident it can succeed.

The first Mac clones – personal computers that aren't made by Apple but still use the Mac operating system – are due to go on sale in the United States on Monday 17 April. Made by Power Computing, there are two machines in the range. Both have PowerPC 601 chips, with one machine running at 80MHz and the other at 100MHz. The Apple equivalents to these clones are the PowerMac 7100/80 and 8100/100.

Each system will also include a quad-speed CD-ROM drive, 2Mb of video RAM (enough to show millions of colours on a 15-inch monitor, for example), a 256K 'Level 2' cache for increased speed and bundled CD-ROM software. Apple has been working closely with the company to ensure that the computers run Mac software perfectly, and independent tests of prototype machines suggest that the two have succeeded.

The machines are still without a name, but we'll know what the first Mac-compatible computers will be called by launch day. Details of pricing and the software to be included will also be announced then, as well as vital details like technical support.

The machines won't be too easily available at first, but manufacturing will soon increase to the point where there'll be a steady supply. They won't be on sale in Britain for the time being, but British distributors are being arranged.

Look out for details in MACFORMAT soon, but for more details on the machines themselves, contact Power Computing in the US on 00 1 512 250 2015.

MAC TV

A combination of a Mac and a TV could be the result of early discussions between Apple and several Japanese electronics companies. Any new machine could use ideas from the Performa 630 TV Tuner card and Apple set-top units being used in trials for interactive cable TV.

MF STAYS ON TOP

MACFORMAT is still the UK's best-selling Mac magazine by a long way, according to the latest sales figures confirmed by the independent Audit Bureau of Circulations. Our average circulation between July and December last year was 40,146 – an increase of a mammoth 53% over the same period in 1993.

Launched in March 1993, MACFORMAT set out to cater not just for the traditional high-end, professional Mac user but for everyone who uses a Mac – an ever increasing number, as Macs continue to become more affordable. Our policy will continue to be to help you get more out of your Mac, whatever you use it for.

Thanks for all your support – and we always welcome your suggestions as to how to make the best even better. Our address is on page 6.

Apple leads multimedia boom

Apple is selling more multimedia computers than any other firm, with almost one in four machines sold being a Mac.

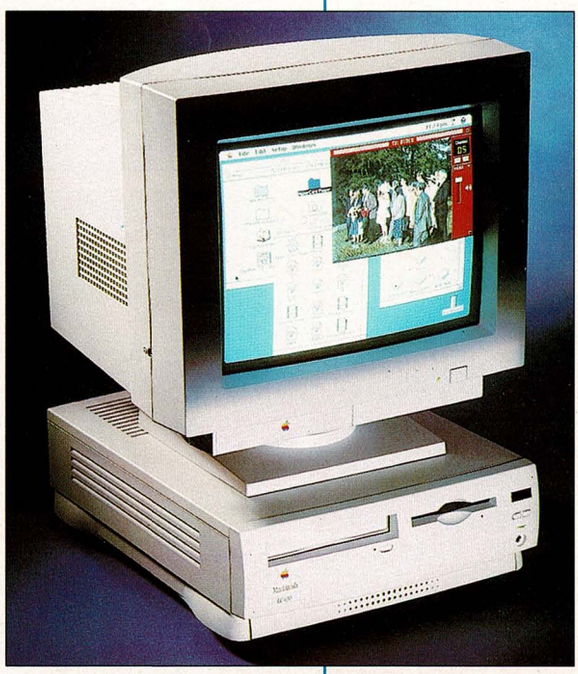
An independent survey by respected research firm Dataquest, which defines a multimedia computer as one with a CD-ROM drive and good sound abilities, says that the company sold 2.4 million such machines around the world in 1994. Apple enjoyed a 22.9% share of the total of 10.3 million computers. In second place was PC maker Packard Bell with 19.2%.

Supporting this finding is a report by SIMBA Information, which says that one in three of all multimedia computers is now an Apple Mac.

With the Mac being so popular in a field that grew by 312% in a single year, according to Dataquest, this can only mean more CD-ROM titles for you to choose from.

More evidence of the multimedia boom comes with the report from research firm Inteco that the average price the British, French and Germans pay for a new computer has risen for the first time in three years. This is not because of price increases, but because more people are choosing costlier systems with multimedia capabilities, including a CD-ROM drive. Inteco found we pay an average of £1,540 for a new computer, compared to the £1,250 we'd have shelled out 18 months ago.

And in Britain, Apple's own figures show that 66% of the Macs sold in 1994 had CD-ROM drives, compared to 6% in 1993.



The 630 Macs are part of the new wave of machines that have led to Apple's outstanding success in multimedia.

Pippin unveiled

This is an early prototype of Apple's new Pippin console. Can it take Mac multimedia to new heights?

Pippin, Apple's new multimedia console design and the latest addition to the Mac family, was shown in Britain for the first time last month. The machine was demonstrated at this year's Electronic Books conference – and MACFORMAT took it home for a closer look.

The new machine (previously reported on in MACFORMAT 20 and 22) is based on the latest PowerPC 603 chip, which is cheaper to make than the 601s used in PowerMacs, and uses a quad-speed CD-ROM drive – double the speed of a typical drive. It will first appear under the name of Power Player, and will be sold by Japanese games company Bandai. As well as the strong games connection, multimedia is clearly going to play a key part in the future of Pippin.

An early launch is a possibility, according to Apple's New Media Marketing Manager Kanwal Sharma. 'Obviously I can't speak on Bandai's behalf, but we're hoping to see the first machines shipping some time this summer. It's going to be launched in Japan and in the US, followed by Europe.' Sharma was not able to say how soon a British and European launch might follow the Power Player's appearance elsewhere.

Sharma says the Power Player is designed to capitalise on the rising interest in multimedia in the home: 'We wanted to produce a unit that could take computing into the home on a television set.'

Viewing the current shape of the leisure computer market, divided between low-cost but basic Sega and Nintendo games consoles and full-blown multimedia machines costing over £1,000, Sharma adds, 'There are a lot of people who don't want to buy a multimedia PC, but would like some sort of multimedia experience. There are also people who don't want their kids to grow up with games machines but are not sure what sort of computer to buy for them.'

Pippin in action

We looked at a prototype of Pippin from Apple designed to show what the machine can do; the Power Player itself is likely to look different. We tried two programs: *The View From Earth* and *GF4: Sooner Or Later*.

When you put a disc into the CD-ROM drive, you get a variation on the familiar 'Welcome to Macintosh' screen as the player loads the Mac operating system (Mac OS) into its memory off the disc. The CD-ROM can include any Control Panels or Extensions – like QuickTime

APPLE LOSES WAR

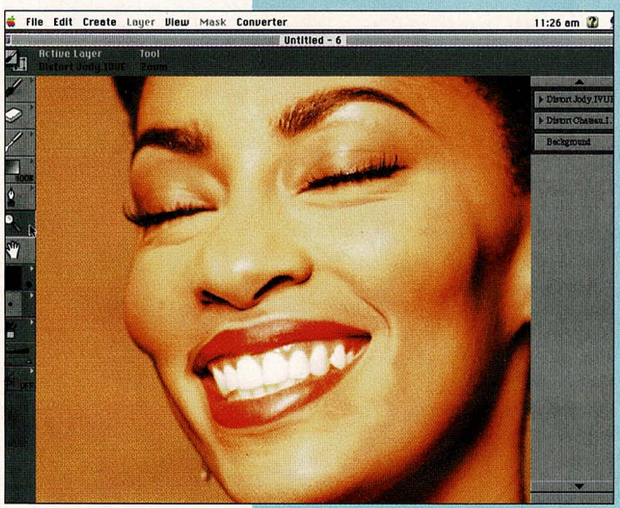
Apple has finally lost the court case it brought against Microsoft and Hewlett Packard in 1988. Apple had alleged that operating systems released by the firms were so close in style and appearance to the Mac OS that its copyright was being infringed. But the Supreme Court, the highest court authority in the United States, has rejected Apple's final appeal.

LIVE PICTURE PRICE PLUMMETS

The image manipulation program *Live Picture*, which had drawn as much attention for its £4,112 price tag as its powerful features, is falling in price to £934. The dramatic move comes as publisher Live Picture Inc acknowledges the importance of reaching the broadest audience possible. The price fall echoes the trend toward far cheaper prices elsewhere in the software industry.

Version 2.0 of the software is due to go on sale in April. The new version builds on the program's use of FITS programming code, which enables you to change images that take up huge amounts of hard disk space in a fraction of the usual time. Despite the increased power of *Live Picture*, the minimum memory requirement has dropped to 24Mb. There are new tools like sophisticated perspective features and image substitution, so you can create a complex montage and simply drop in a new image in place of an old one as part of the whole. *Photoshop* users will be able to import *Live Picture* files with the help of a Plug-in that comes with the program.

A set of special discount offers is available to customers who bought *Live Picture* at its original price – to cushion the blow! For more details contact Principal Distribution on 0181 813 5445.



Now you'll be able to taste the incredible power of graphics program *Live Picture* at an amazing quarter of its original price.

System 7.5 gets

Apple will soon release a free set of floppy disks that will correct bugs in the latest version of the Mac operating system, System 7.5. The new Mac OS logo also makes its official debut, replacing the 'Welcome To Macintosh' screen that you see when you switch on your Mac.

The upgrade is one of several that you can expect to appear in the countdown to System 8 (codenamed Copland), which is due in 1996 and should see major changes to the Mac.

You'll be able to get System 7.5 Update 1.0 from on-line bulletin boards or by

If you use System 7.5, the free update will mean you'll be greeted by the friendly face of the Mac OS when you switch on, instead of 'Welcome to Macintosh'.

video – that the program will need to run. Once the OS has loaded, it's straight into the title screen of the program.

On *Sooner Or Later*, Pippin plays a full-screen QuickTime pop video with no problems. Both discs also work perfectly on a PowerMac. You place the disc in the drive, double-click on its icon as usual and select the program icon to run it. Each of these discs also included standard Mac versions of its program – but the inclusion of a non-PowerMac version will be up to each publisher to decide upon.

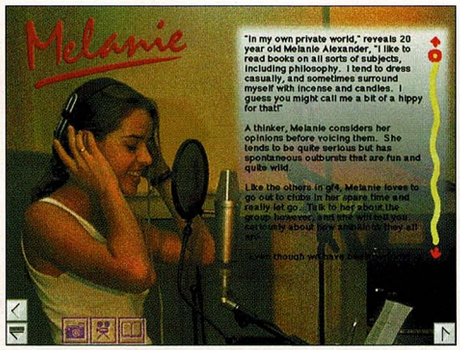
Sharma says, 'What the publisher has to do is license the Mac OS from us. With a little editing, he can put the OS onto his CD-ROM and publish a title that will play on Pippin and also on the Mac.'

MACFORMAT used a sleek, black Mac mouse to operate the programs, but a controller that doesn't rely on the presence of a flat surface to work is likely to be included with the Power Player.

On this early evidence, Pippin appears to be a well-realised concept that can only add to the Mac multimedia scene. And it's clear that these early discs are barely beginning to exploit the potential of the 603 chip and fast drive, so there's better to come from Pippin.

The quad-speed CD-ROM drive is too fast for *The View From Earth* – narration was cut off in mid-flow as the next scene loaded in no time at all.

Sooner Or Later is a promotional CD-ROM for Australian girl group GF4 and features full-screen QuickTime video.


Melanie
"In my own private world," reveals 20 year old Melanie Alexander, "I like to read books on all sorts of subjects, including philosophy. I tend to dress casually, and sometimes surround myself with incense and candles. I guess you might call me a bit of a hippy for that!"
A thinker, Melanie considers her opinions before voicing them. She tends to be quite serious but has spontaneous outbursts that are fun and quite wild.
Like the others in gf4, Melanie loves to go out to clubs in her spare time and really let go. Talk to her about the group, however, and she will tell you

Familiar multimedia conventions like interactive text and images will be at your command with the Power Player.

free update

phoning Apple. The update only works on System 7.5, changing it to System 7.5.1. The improved version should be bundled with new Macs shortly.

Bugs that have irritated you in the past are corrected. Problems like the way you can't eject a CD-ROM if File Sharing is switched on are gone.

There's a new utility called *Speech Manager*, which enables your Mac to read text files out loud.

PowerMac users will find more parts of System 7.5, including Apple Guide and the Modern Memory Manager, will now run 'native' (that is, specially optimised for the PowerMac) rather than under Mac emulation. Also included is MathLib, a PowerMac-only Extension that speeds up floating point mathematical calculations.

If you have Internet access, the update is available on the World Wide Web. One address is **ftp://ftp.support.apple.com/pub/apple_sw_updates**. Apple's Internet servers have been overloaded frequently with the heavy demand for the update, so be prepared for a long wait. If this server is too busy, alternatives will be suggested.

For more details contact Apple on 0800 127753.

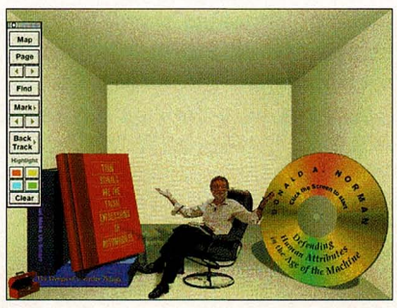
Mac book threat

CD-ROM is becoming popular enough to threaten the printed book, according to the top people in the book industry. Delegates at the recent Electronic Books conference in London were told that some areas of publishing – particularly reference – are changing dramatically as the new medium takes hold.

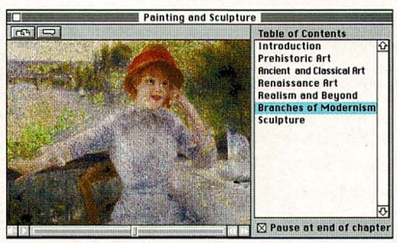
Figures from Apple add to evidence that CD-ROM is becoming dominant on the Mac. In 1993, only 6% of people buying a Mac in Britain bought a CD-ROM drive at the same time – but in 1994, that figure increased to 66%.

The surge in popularity of CD-ROM is already transforming non-fiction books, as discs can carry more information at a lower cost. Penguin's Peter Mayer claimed that Microsoft's *Encarta* has already become the most widely-used encyclopedia after just a few years of publication on disc. Bob Stein of CD-ROM company Voyager predicted: 'Books will stop being the place where the most serious ideas are communicated.'

Book publishers and sellers alike can profit from these changes, delegates heard. Stein predicted that booksellers rather than computer dealers would dominate the CD-ROM market.



Donald Norman's *Defending Human Attributes* is an example of how CD-ROM is revolutionising non-fiction publishing.



New Mac encyclopedias like *Grolier 1995* are proving more popular than traditional reference volumes. Watch for a roundup of CD encyclopedias in MACFORMAT soon.

DAYSTAR CLONE

The next computer to use the Mac OS will be the Genesis MP from American firm DayStar Digital. It's aimed at media publishers – whether print or electronic – and is said to be an extremely powerful workstation costing thousands of dollars. DayStar joins Power, Radius, Pioneer and Bandai in licensing the Mac OS from Apple.

KEYBOARDS SAFE

A Minnesota court has found in Apple's favour in a court case investigating whether its keyboards caused Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI). Nancy Urbanski had claimed that keyboards from both Apple and IBM that she used had caused RSI, but the jury found against her.

VIDEO FESTIVAL

The best in video and computer animation will form part of Video Positive 95, a Liverpool-based festival starting on Saturday 29 April. You can see experimental art created with Macs at the Tate Gallery, and a CD-ROM version of the festival catalogue will also be available. For more details contact the Festival Hotline on 0151 709 2663.

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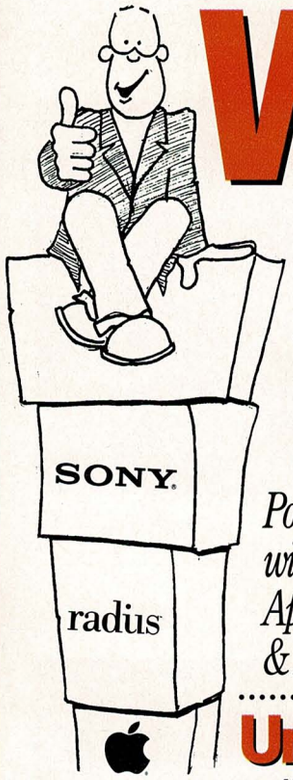

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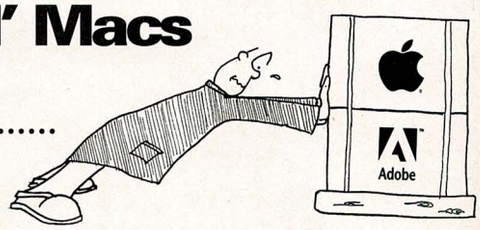

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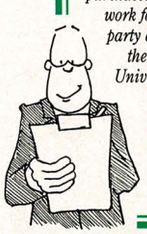

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WHAT'S NEW

Another bumper selection of previews includes a trend-setting art magazine, salvation for anyone who's baffled by Phoneday and a revolutionary mouse replacement. Compiled by Richard Hill.

Command Z

The magazine *Command Z* is the brainchild of designer Ian Swift – better known to design aficionados and you, if you read his interview in MACFORMAT 21, as Swifty. It's a magazine and disk package with a difference.

This magazine deals with typography and graphics at the hipper end of the spectrum – the arena of record sleeves and stylish magazine layout – that many (let's face it, all) design students aspire to. Its scrapbook style makes the best of limited resources, combining colour, print and different types of paper to create a mag that's a tactile experience as well as a visual one.

With *Command Z* comes *Swifty's Funky Fonts*, a floppy disk containing two fonts in different weights. They come in PostScript (a high-quality professional graphics format) and TrueType formats. The magazine also offers plenty of helpful ideas as to how the fonts can be used.

1990s modernity and the tradition of print meet head-on with the magazine's jazz-influenced graphics. *Command Z* should go down well with anyone who eats, drinks and sleeps design – although its appeal might seem baffling to others.

- **Price: £36.95 for single issue (£25.50 for students) Out: now.**
- **Disk requires: any Mac with PostScript-compatible printer and software.**
- **For more details contact Swifty Typografix on 0171 613 2061.**

The pages of *Command Z* contain a treasure trove of ideas for using type creatively, including how to use the fonts you get on the disk.

BOX OF DELIGHTS

Help for printers

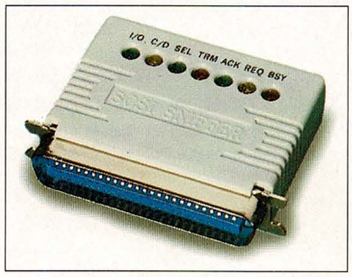
Some desktop publishing programs, including *QuarkXPress*, only print documents on printers that recognise PostScript, a system designed to give top-quality results. For £151.58, *StyleScript* enables PostScript-only programs to work with the Apple StyleWriter printer family, giving you better results on paper. *StyleScript* also works with colour models like the Colour StyleWriter Pro and the new 2400. For more details contact Academy Software on 0181 656 9560.

Charge up your RAM

If you're using an older Mac like a Classic or LC, lack of memory can be a recurrent problem – especially if you're using the RAM-hungry System 7. And working with large documents can be a hassle on many Macs regardless of age. *OptiMem RAM Charger* claims to change the way your Mac uses its memory so it's more efficient. It uses a different principle from virtual memory, which uses hard disk space as extra memory. This means *RAM Charger* can be used in conjunction with the popular *RAM Doubler* virtual memory program. The program costs $129 – for more details call Jump Development Group on 00 1 412 681 2692.

Sniff out SCSI problems

More Macs than ever are connected to networks, so a set-up system is important. The SCSI Sniffer aims to ease problems you might get with large networks. If there isn't enough power in the system it won't run properly, but you can't easily tell where in the network the problem lies. The SCSI Sniffer is a SCSI connector that lets you know instantly if there's enough power for it to run safely. There are Sniffers to place in the middle of a network chain or at its end, priced at £56.40 and £50.53 respectively. For details call Lan>U<Like on 01425 657905.



The SCSI Sniffer makes setting up a large network easy. See page 57 for more on this growing area of the Mac scene.

TextBridge turns Pro

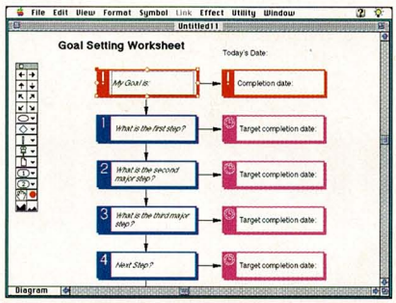
Two new versions of Xerox's *TextBridge* program, which enables you to use a scanner to convert printed text into a Mac document, are available this month. The £116.33 *TextBridge 3.0* uses a process called DocuRT to retain the original layout of a document. If you were to scan in this page of MACFORMAT, DocuRT could distinguish between its different columns of text and know which parts of the page were photos.

If you spend a lot of time scanning, you can use the new £410 *TextBridge Professional Edition* to scan in all your documents and leave their conversion to Mac files until later. This program also automatically adjusts for faxed documents that aren't printed straight (as if that ever happens). For more details contact Xerox on 01734 668421.

Inspiration 4.1

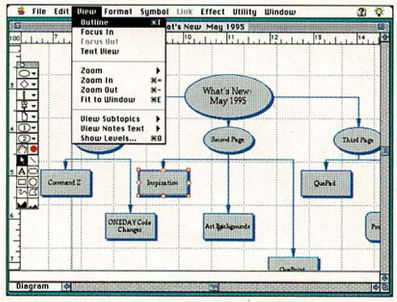
Not everyone can hope to match the MACFORMAT office's boundless creativity or robotic, almost ruthless efficiency – but help is at hand. *Inspiration* is an idea processor designed to help you get your head in gear and organise your thoughts.

Provided in the program are all the tools you need to create graphic outlines similar to flowcharts. With these, you can map out a complicated project or pepper your screen with ideas before assembling them into a structure that makes sense. Alternatively, you can type out a basic point-by-point list and convert it into graphical form.



There are pre-designed templates covering a dozen topics, so you can get right down to brainstorming.

At first, creating an outline isn't as intuitive as it might have been – it's not immediately obvious how to use the facilities at hand, even though they perform quite simple tasks, and the functions aren't arranged on the menus in a logical fashion. But with the help of a useful guide, you'll figure it out in no time, and making designs will become easier. You'll find putting your ideas down becomes instinctive, allowing you to concentrate on thinking.



If you're the type who can't plan out anything, *Inspiration* could be about to strike with this idea processor.

- **Price: £149. Out: now.**
- **Requires: Mac Plus or better, System 6.0.4 or later, 1Mb of free RAM.**
- **For more details contact Roderick Manhattan on 0181 875 4400.**

Art Backgrounds

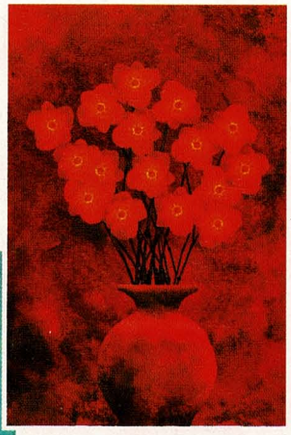
CD-ROM collections of photo and illustration images have become well-established in the design community. Themed sets of pictures are an obvious aid to finding the image you want – but a CD-ROM of backgrounds?! The first in a projected series, *Art Backgrounds Collection A* gives you a set of textures for you to use in your favourite graphics program.

There are 60 textures in the popular Photo CD format, each of which is supplied in five degrees of detail, from 128 x 192 pixels to 2,048 x 3,072 pixels. There are many uses – from superimposing an object in front of the texture to using them to create effects when rendering in 3D.

The cover leaflet of the CD presents the full set of mood-enhancing textures for you to browse in hard copy, while a slideshow presentation is also available.

- **Price: £47. Out: now.**
- **Requires: any colour Mac (one capable of showing thousands of colours is recommended).**
- **For more details contact Field Of Vision on 0171 263 5054.**

Different moods in your design work can be achieved with the help of these background textures…



…Or you can blend them into your illustration work – here the background texture has also been applied to the vase.

QuePoint

If you've seen Apple's prestige PowerBook 540c portable Mac, you may be intrigued by the control device it uses instead of a mouse. Its trackpad is a thin film of plastic that you glide your fingertip across to move the cursor. The QuePoint is a similar gadget that connects to other Macs.

Because it responds to your commands in the same way as a mouse, no installation software is needed – you can just plug the QuePoint into the ADB socket where your mouse is, and it'll work straight away.

The QuePoint is a pleasure to use – you barely need to touch the trackpad to control your cursor. Perhaps if this had been invented before the mouse, we'd all be wondering why anyone would want to use the latter. Its size is a disadvantage in some situations – you have to lift your finger and reposition it to get from one side of the screen to the other, while large hands like mine will also find using the buttons for clicking a little awkward.

Its price confines the QuePoint to the realm of expensive playthings for the time being, but the cost should drop. If you're finding overuse of a mouse is causing strain in your hand, you might well find the lightness of the QuePoint is what you've been looking for.

- **Price: £190.34. Out: now.**
- **Requires: any Mac.**
- **For more details contact Softline on 0181 401 1234.**

QuePad

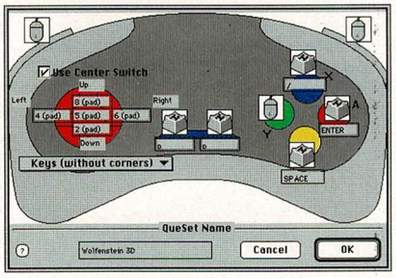
Playing games on your Mac is great fun, but it could be better. Playing a platform game like *Fury Of The Furries* on your keyboard can be a bit of a pain, and you find yourself longing for a control device specifically designed for playing games.

The QuePad is what's known as a joypad. It's heavily based on the Super Nintendo controller, with a similar arrangement of buttons on the top and side – even the choice of button colours is the same. You have to install a Control Panel in your System Folder. With this, you can set each of the pad's buttons to represent a different keyboard stroke. You can also change the setting for each game you own and save it on your hard drive.

A game called *GridLock* is included with the QuePad. In this, you have to move around a grid-like design of passages, hitting all the switches while avoiding baddies and collecting bonuses. It's a simple but nonetheless enjoyable slice of traditional arcade playing.

The QuePad looks good and the array of controls is useful for games like *Marathon*, where there's a bewildering choice of keyboard moves you need to learn. The trouble is, it's not very well-made – it feels light in your hands and one of the buttons on our review model kept getting stuck. The QuePad may not be up to sustained games-playing sessions, hammering away at aliens – which is a shame, because many people would find a decent joypad much easier to use than a keyboard.

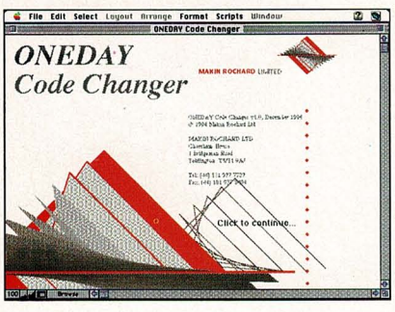
- **Price: £46.99. Out: now.**
- **Requires: any colour Mac.**
- **For more details contact Softline on 0181 401 1234.**



A useful feature of the QuePad enables you set it up to work with any game you own, and simply save the control instructions onto your hard drive.

ONEDAY Code Changer

You did *know* the British phone codes are changing, didn't you? Sunday 16 April is Phoneday. From that day on, you'll have to use the new local area codes and international code – and so will your Mac. If the prospect of changing every phone number in your database files is too daunting to think about, fear not – the enterprising *ONEDAY Code Changer* is coming to your rescue just in the nick of time.



Save yourself unnecessary hassle of changing phone codes with this tailor-made translator for *Claris FileMaker*.

It's a custom-made translation file for users of *Claris FileMaker*. With this on your hard drive and the help of the manual, you can alter each of your files so they have the new phone numbers. Because you're having to deal with importing and exporting records between documents, the process is a little scrappy in execution, but works admirably well.

Using information from telephone watchdog OFTEL, *ONEDAY* changes all local codes to their correct new versions, adjusts international codes and is even sussed enough to ignore FreePhone 0800 codes and premium rate 0898 codes, which don't change. If it doesn't understand the way you've entered the number, it will even ask you to edit it and then instantly convert it.

ONEDAY can be fooled by things like leaving a space out between area code and individual number, but it copes with brackets and dashes perfectly. So, if you've got thousands of *FileMaker* files to convert, *ONEDAY* is recommended.

- **Price: £29.95. Out: now.**
- **Requires: a Mac running *Claris FileMaker*.**
- **For more details contact Makin Rochard on 0181 977 7727.**

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issue 2

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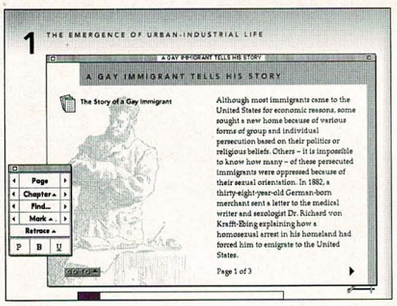
MACROSCOPE

The stories behind the news, the people behind the headlines – every month, MacroScope brings you the information you need to make sense of the news in the Mac world. Compiled by Richard Hill.

Seedy ROMs?

Multimedia used to be for the young and old alike – but as adult-oriented CD-ROMs start to appear, some parents are finding that they don't like what they see...

CD-ROMs are not normally associated with controversy, but a fierce debate over a Mac disc is building in schools and homes across the United States. Meanwhile, other new CD-ROMs aimed specifically at adults are appearing. The signs are that CD-ROM is starting to broaden its horizons as it becomes more popular – but not everyone may welcome this.



Despite sensitive handling of topics like homosexuality, *Who Built America?* has aroused controversy simply for including them.

Who Built America?, published by Voyager, covers the growth of the United States as an economic power in the years from 1876 to 1914. It examines how people were affected by the way society was changed by industrialisation. With vintage video clips and recorded sound interviews with people who lived during the time, *Who Built America?* is obviously an attractive and effective way of teaching history. Schools and libraries were able to buy the disc as part of a discounted software package sold with Macs in the US. Within a few months of the bundle going on sale, more than 12,000 were sold.

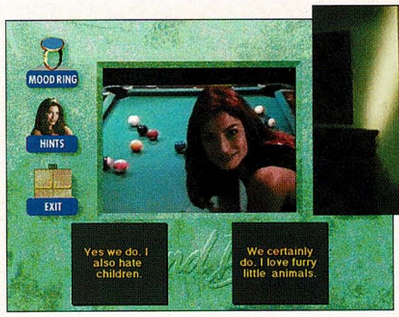
But it wasn't long until Apple received complaints from some schools and parents about the content of one disc in the bundle – *Who Built America?* Parts of the program look at how women living in the harsh conditions of the time dealt with the difficult choices surrounding unwanted pregnancies. In another section, homosexual people talk and write about a time when sexuality was an issue that was swept under the carpet.

To discuss subjects like abortion in modern America is to light a bomb fuse – activists falling on either side of the debate constantly clash, sometimes with violent or even fatal consequences. And people were telling Apple that these things should not be discussed on a CD-ROM available to children.

Apple's reaction to these criticisms is the subject of argument between Voyager and the company. It seems that Voyager was asked by Apple to remove references to the contentious topics and reacted with a point blank refusal, seeing the request as an attempt at censorship. Apple says it's currently assessing whether or not to include *Who Built America?* in further editions of the bundle.

That's edutainment

Since it began, multimedia has been sold to the public as a family medium. 'Edutainment' – a sickly contraction of 'education' and 'entertainment' – became the buzzword as personal computer makers, including Apple, released adverts showing parents and children using their new purchases together. The spectacular growth of the home market has depended in part on the wholesome image of CD-ROM. The software you could buy offered a reassurance that TV, full of cheap programmes chasing viewers with potent images of sex and violence, couldn't give.



Blind Date, on the other hand, has simply aroused. It's a multimedia opportunity for you to meet Sandi, the politically incorrect girl of your dreams.

With its inclusion of explicit images, *The Joy Of Sex* has received an '18' certificate from the censor.

But new CD-ROMs like *The Joy Of Sex* and *National Lampoon's Blind Date* are aimed at adults only, rather than everyone in the family. And the argument over *Who Built America?* shows some parents are concerned that, from their point of view, CD-ROM isn't the 100% reliable, cosy medium they thought it was.

Book or video?

As this fact dawns on the public, it's almost certain that there'll be some scare stories in the press about adult CD-ROMs. Subjects like violence in computer games and sexually explicit material on floppy disk from shareware libraries have been covered in sensational tones in the past. Most recently, the Internet has come under scrutiny, again for the availability of sex pictures.

Different approaches to adult material have developed in different media as publishers have struggled to deal with conflicting pressures of artistic freedom and the demands of society and government. Video and film are tightly regulated, with a certification system imposing age limits on all releases. Some directors argue that the system imposes unnecessary restrictions on artistic expression. You can't legally buy some titles – like *Reservoir Dogs* – on video, while editing films to make them suitable for a lower age group, and thus reach more people, is commonplace. But if a company wants to sell a video through shops, it has to submit to the system.

Books are less constrained. Titles for young and old are sold in the same store

YOU DECIDE

Who Built America?, *The Joy of Sex*, *Blind Date* and *This Is Spinal Tap* are reviewed this issue – starting on page 99.

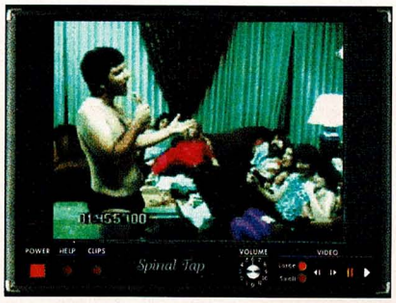
Scanning made simple

To become popular, scanners must become easier to use, says the president of scanner manufacturer Microtek.

with little restriction placed on what you can buy. Book publishers instead appeal to different markets through packaging – the way their books are designed. A racy paperback will have a totally different style of cover from an innocent adventure story. The approach seems to be successful, with little controversy surrounding the free availability of books.

The question CD-ROM publishers must soon deal with is: are they closer to videos or books? Up until now, the issue hasn't really been a problem because of the overwhelming percentage of family-based CD-ROMs. But it's this domination by inoffensive material that could result in trouble for publishers and computer firms as stronger subjects begin to be discussed. *Who Built America?* is hardly *Natural Born Killers*, the Oliver Stone film that allegedly incited someone to commit murder, but it has still drawn complaints.

So far, CD-ROM publishers are taking different approaches to the issue. Philips'



This Is Spinal Tap lays bare the excesses of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle with a very adult brand of comedy.

The Joy Of Sex is labelled clearly with a British Board of Film Censors '18' certificate – clearly following the example of videos. There's a layer of added reassurance for parents in the form of a screen where you have to enter a code to progress. By contrast, Voyager's CD-ROM version of the spoof documentary *This Is Spinal Tap*, which received a '15' certificate for video release, bears no label. Voyager tends to base its CD-ROMs on the look and feel of books, and implies a product's mature nature through design.

Each of these approaches is legitimate, but how are you to make sense of such contrasting strategies? The CD-ROM industry faces some growing pains in the next few years, as it attempts to find the level of freedom of expression that society will accept.

RICHARD HILL

Despite the progress they've made in recent years, scanner manufacturers face some difficult challenges – according to Dr S C Lee, president of venerable scanner firm Microtek. The company and its rivals have been selling the simple idea of a machine you can use to turn drawings and text on a piece of paper into a Mac document for many years now, but the machines are hardly in every computer-owning household and office.

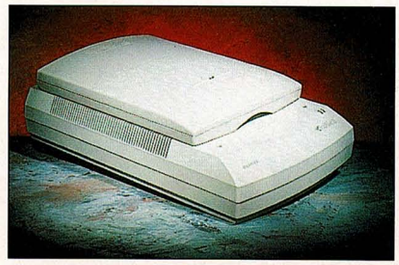
The popularity of the scanner has been hampered by poor machine design, Lee says. 'Even though there's been a tremendous improvement of ease of use, installation and so on – even as a supplier, I will still admit a scanner is not one of the easiest peripherals to use. A printer today – for most people it's a no-brainer. You're just plugging in and turning on.'

Lee says a scanner can do some tasks far better than comparable machines: 'Doing intelligent faxing, for example. But how do you compare a scanner with an ordinary fax machine? How do you beat that? You put the paper in and dial the number. If it rings you push the button and walk away – it's done. Using a scanner is more hassle, even though you've got more features.'

Lee says solving this problem should be the number one priority for scanner companies now that the prices have come down. 'When we first started out, desktop scanning, even in black-and-white, cost $3,000. Today you can get a colour 24-bit for less than $500, but it doesn't have the feel of a copier machine or a fax – instant gratification.'

Microtek's S C Lee is on a mission to make using a scanner simple, as he reckons that the typical scanner user today is not a computer expert.

Microtek is planning to improve the ease-of-use of its scanners by revamping its driver software. Drivers, like their equivalents for printers, are needed so the scanner and your Mac understand each other. To work with your scanned file, you also need a program like *Photoshop* or, in the case of scanning and converting type, *TextBridge*. But Lee sees an opportunity for making the driver take on more responsibility for helping you do everyday scanning work. 'Right now we're developing a driver that provides for people who don't really need the full power of *Photoshop*.



The ScanMaker III (£3,523.83, including software) from Microtek will shortly benefit from a new and easy to use driver program.

'We've added things like photocopying. People at home don't have a copier, but they have a printer. You can use a scanner to photocopy a document today but it takes three or four steps. We're going to make everything automatic. If you have a colour printer, you now have a colour photocopier.'

You won't have to fiddle around if your scan is too dark or too light. 'We'll have two preview windows. If you take a quick scan, you then say, "What happens if I adjust the highlight or the shadow?" At the moment you only have one window, so you have no reference point – you can't look at both and say, "Which one do I like better?" '

Lee also wants to hide the technical details that he thinks you shouldn't need to deal with all the time. 'Instead of selecting 72 dpi or 300 dpi, you tell it what output you want – whether you want the image on the monitor or on paper.'

Lee wants to make the scanner as essential to your Mac as a printer. 'The key here is the variety of things you can do. Scanning, copying, faxing – the typical things you want to do, very fast, very easy. If you want something more sophisticated, then pass it on to *Photoshop* later.

'The typical users today are people who have not got a lot of experience with computers, so we're going to have to help them.'

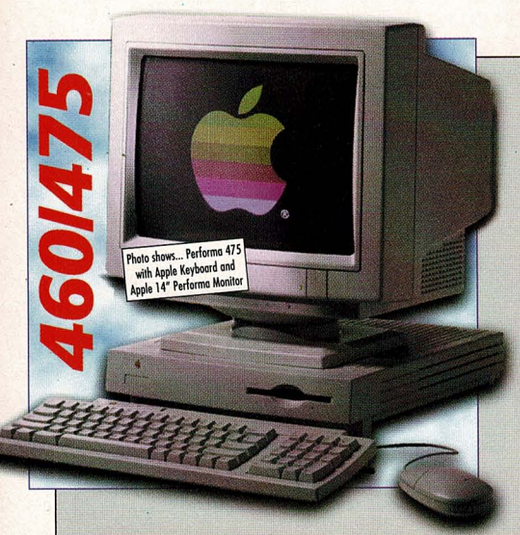
RICHARD HILL

JARGON BUSTER

DPI stands for dots per inch. A typical monitor resolution is 72dpi, while many printers print an image at 300dpi.

WHICH SCANNER?

Flip to page 88 to check out our five page round up of colour scanners.



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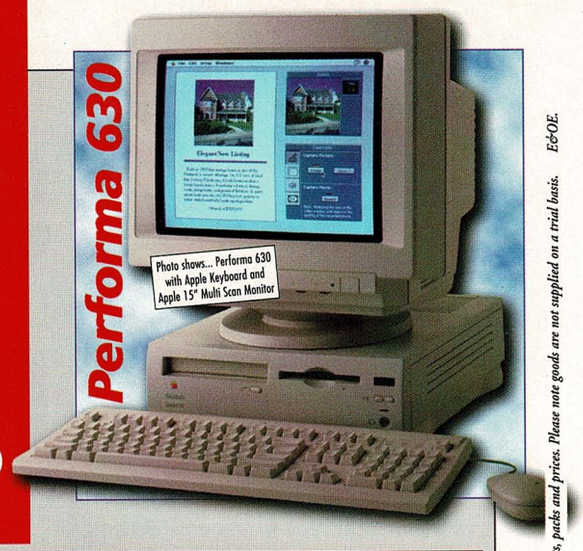

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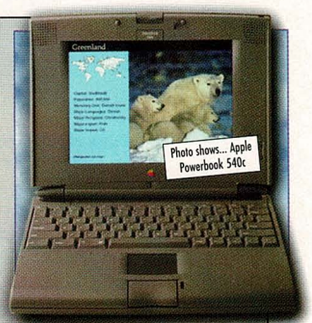

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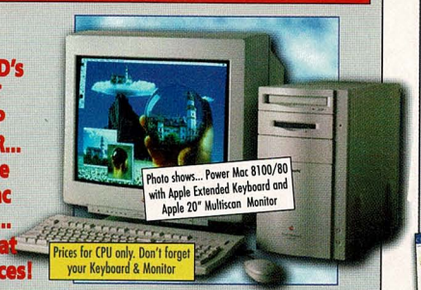
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PUBLISHING PACK 2 – POWERMAC 8100/80... £3799 (£4463.83 inc. VAT)

- PowerMac 8100/80, 8/500
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GH SUPASAVE MONITOR PRICES – Special Low Price for a LIMITED TIME on Apple 17" and Apple 20" Displays!

Monitor Model	Price
Apple 14" Performa Plus (.28)	£209 (£246)
Apple 14" Trinitron (.26)	£259 (£305)
Apple 14" AudioVision (.26)	£345 (£406)
Apple 15" MultiScan (.28)	£299 (£352)
Apple 17" Trinitron MultiScan (.25)	£599 (£704)
Apple 20" Trinitron Multiscan (.26)	£1299 (£1527)
Sony 15" SFI Trinitron MultiScan (.26)	£345 (£406)
SuperMac 17" Trinitron MultiScan (.25)	£649 (£763)
SuperMac 20" Trinitron Multiscan (.26)	£1199 (£1409)

NB. Shown below are the sizes of monitors individual Macs can run (some require more Video RAM (VRAM) for this and/or in order to increase the Maximum number of colours that can be displayed)

LC III/Performa 450-460-630/Quadra 630/Powermac 6100 *Max 17"* Performa 475/Powermac 7100-8100 *Max20"*

MACINTOSH KEYBOARDS

Apple Design Keyboard	£79 (£93)
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Giles Harwood - Managing Director

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RAM - 4Mb. SIMMS	£115 (£136)
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Powermac 256K Cache	£159 (£187)

MACINTOSH UPGRADE - BOARDS

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LC 630 to Powermac Card	£309 (£364)
Performa 630 FULL 68040	£309 (£364)
Powermac 6100 PC 486 DX2 66MHz Microsoft DOS Card	£399 (£469)
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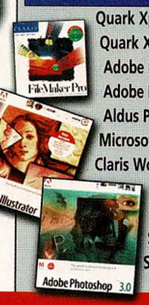
630 Video-In Card	£90 (£106
630 Video-In and TV Tuner Card	£210 (£247)
630 Video-Out Card	£210 (£247)

TOP MACINTOSH SOFTWARE



Quark Xpress 3.3 - Native Version	£639 (£751)
Quark Xpress 3.3 - 68030 Version	£579 (£681)
Adobe Illustrator 5.5 - Native & Non Native	£299 (£352)
Adobe Photoshop 3.0 - Native & Non Native	£409 (£481)
Aldus Page maker	£399 (£467)
Microsoft Word	£249 (£293)
Claris Works 3.0	£99 (£117)
Claris Filemaker Pro	£99 (£117)
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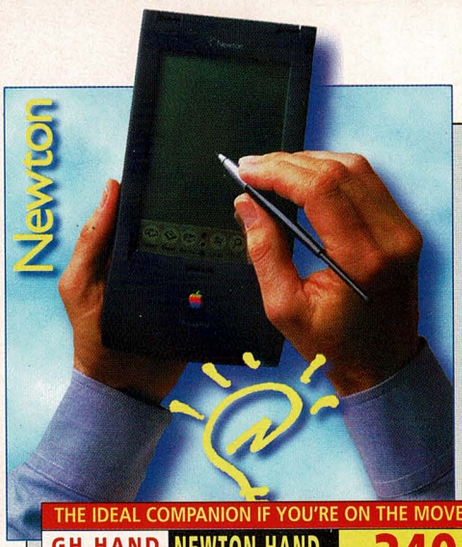

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Columbo's Mystery Capers	£25	(£30)
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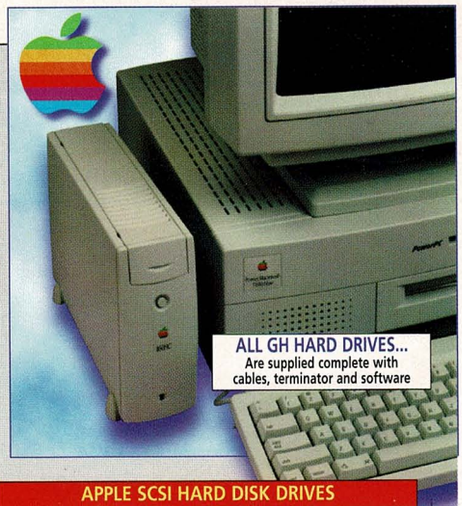

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325Mb. External Hard Drive	£289 (£340)
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1000Mb. External Hard Drive	£649 (£763)

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INTERNAL SCSI		EXTERNAL SCSI	
HD Spec	Price	HD Spec	Price
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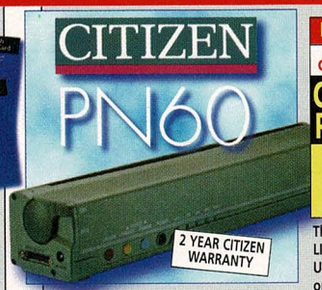
540Mb.	£179 (£211)	540Mb.	£259 (£305)
730Mb.	£199 (£234)	730Mb.	£279 (£328)
1000Mb.	£449 (£528)	1000Mb.	£539 (£634)
2100Mb.	£779 (£916)	2100Mb.	£859 (£1010)

CITIZEN PN60



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This IS the World's SMALLEST, LIGHTEST portable printer! Use on ANY Mac, Powerbook or even Newton with Stylewriter II commands.

- Laser Quality Thermal Transfer Dot Matrix
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- Weighs JUST 1lb (500g)
- Upto A4 size paper @ 2ppm
- Uses plain paper, envelopes, labels, even transparencies
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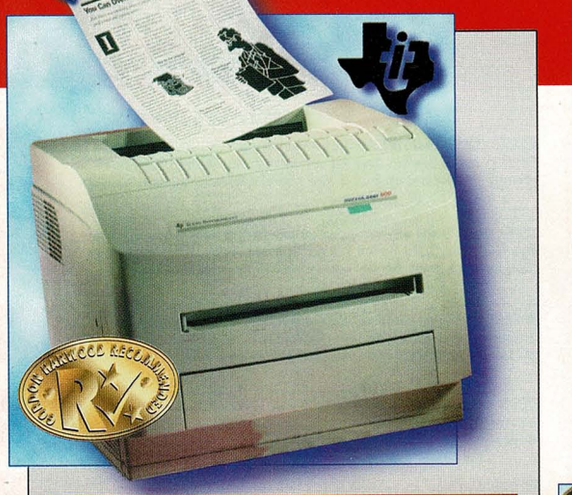
ACCESSORIES/CONSUMABLES

Rechargeable Battery	£35	(£42)
Black Ribbon	£6	(£7)
Single Colour Ribbon	£10	(£12)

PN60s are supplied with all cables and require System 7 or above



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 600dpi LASER BARGAIN

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GH VALUE 600dpi QUALITY LASER PRINTER

If you've been waiting for the expense of 600dpi Laser Printing to **COME DOWN**, but not at the cost of quality - your wait is over! The new TEXAS INSTRUMENTS MICROLASER 600 could be the answer to your dreams with its feature packed specification...

- A4 Paper Size
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- Fast 5ppm Printing
- Adobe Postscript Level 2
- PCL 5 Emulation
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- Autosensing Connections for MAC or IBM Compatibles
- RISC Processor
- 2/4Mb. RAM (max 10Mb.)
- Options to add either a 150 Sheet Feeder or Ethernet

TI Microlaser 600 Model...	Price
Microlaser 600 with 2Mb. RAM	£637 (£749)
Microlaser 600 with 4Mb. RAM	£765 (£899)

DESKTOP SCANNER

GH MACPAC EXTRA

SICOS 1200dpi SCANNER JUST... £349 (£410.08 inc. VAT)

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INCLUDES FREE OCR AND IMAGE SOFTWARE

The SICOS scans at up to 1200dpi, comes with both EasyReader™ OCR (Optical Character Recognition) Software and ColorStation Pro LE-E™ RGB Image Manipulation Software (with Photoshop™ plug-in compatibility) and is supplied ready for use - complete with a SCSI cable and terminator. With a Sicos you to scan in modes of 16.7 million colours - lineart - halftones - 256 greyscales and the unit incorporates an automatic document feeder (with suitable paper types) and a dust cover. The Sicos has a small footprint and can actually scan faster than flatbeds!

Just Picture It... With a SICOS Scan You Can - At a LOW Price!

SCANNER SAVERS

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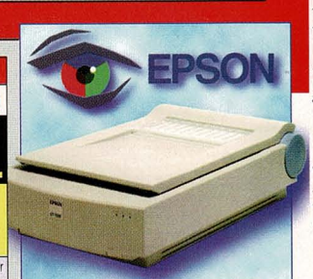
MAC SCANNERS STARTING AT... £487 (£572.23 inc. VAT)



Epson Scanners include CUSP, 1st year on-site REPLACEMENT from distributor 'Customer Satisfaction Programme'

Scanner Model...	Price
GT 6500 - Including Photoshop LE & Omnipage	£487 (£573)
GT 6500 - Including FULL Photoshop 3.0	£646 (£759)
GT 8000 - No Software	£670 (£787)
GT 8000 - Including Photoshop LE & Omnipage	£612 (£719)
GT 8000 - Including FULL Photoshop 3.0	£765 (£899)
GT 9000 - No Software	£799 (£939)
GT 9000 - Including Photoshop LE & Omnipage	£895 (£1052)
GT 9000 - Including FULL Photoshop 3.0	£1060 (£1245)
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WRITEABLE CDs!!!

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PINNACLE RCD 1000... £1379 (£1620.33 inc. VAT)

DON'T FORGET YOUR BLANK CDs

RECORDABLE CD MEDIA £21.23 (£24.95 inc. VAT)

CDs have replaced tape cassettes in the music world - recordable CDs are now taking over from tape in the computer world too. INTRODUCING THE NEW PINNACLE RCD 1000 - The best and most cost effective way to back up your valuable files! Each recordable CD can hold up to 680Mb. of fast random access data which works out at **AS LITTLE AS... 3p per Mb.** - compare that to other storage media! RCD CDs are reliable with a 5 year shelf life specification. The RCD 1000 is supplied complete with back up mastering software, all cables, terminator and an easy guide manual.

Scanner Model...	Price
VISTA T630 - Including Photoshop LE	£499 (£587)
VISTA S6 - Including Photoshop LE	£714 (£839)
VISTA S8 - Including Photoshop LE	£850 (£999)
VISTA UCI 1260 - Inc. FULL Photoshop	£1075 (£1264)
VISTA POWERLOOK - Including FULL Photoshop	£2509 (£2949)

All listed prices are what YOU PAY, and there are NO HIDDEN EXTRAS. Prices are correct at time of going to press (Pack details may vary from time to time). Offers and Services are subject to availability and to being the latest advertised products, packs and prices. Please note goods are not supplied on a trial basis. E&OE.

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720dpi COLOUR INKJET QUALITY PRINT!!!

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GH have secured stocks of this exciting and revolutionary NEW HIGH QUALITY COLOUR INKJET PRINTER! Boasting an incredible 720dpi resolution max. output, the Epson Stylus Colour really IS unique! Take a look at magazine reviews to see the glowing reports about this printer. If you need THE ULTIMATE in LOW COST colour proofing devices - THIS IS THE ONE for you.

STYLEWRITER II

Mono 360dpi Inkjet Printer for budget priced laser-like quality output. Includes sheet feeder.

StyleWriter II £199 (£234)

STYLEWRITER 2400 COLOUR

Excellent 360dpi colour output. Ideal for proofs etc.

StyleWriter 2400 Colour £382 (£449)

While Stocks Last

COLOUR STYLEWRITER PRO

Fantastic 360dpi colour printer from Apple. Ideal for proofing work.

StyleWriter Pro £389 (£458)

HP DESKWRITER INKJETS

HP320 - Mono 600 x 300dpi	£190	(£224)
HP320 - Inc. Sheet Feeder	£214	(£252)
HP520 - Mono 300dpi	£229	(£270)
HP560c - Colour 600 x 300dpi	£399	(£469)

GH LASER BARGAINS

GH MACPAC EXTRA APPLE'S OWN LASERS FROM... £429 (£504.08 inc. VAT)

APPLE LASERWRITER PRINTERS

Personal LaserWriter 300 - 300dpi, 4ppm	£429	(£505)
LaserWriter 320 - 300dpi, 5ppm, Postscript Level 2	£599	(£704)
LaserWriter Select 360 - 600dpi, 10ppm, Postscript Level 2	£999	(£1174)
LaserWriter 16/600 - 600dpi, 16ppm, Postscript Level 2	£1599	(£1879)

PRINTER CONSUMABLES

StyleWriter...			HP DeskWriter...	
I/II/Portable - Black Cartridge	£14	(£16)	Black Double Cap. Cart.	£21 (£24)
2400 - Black Cartridge	£22	(£26)	Tri Colour Cartridge	£24 (£28)
Colour Cartridge	£24	(£28)		
Black Ink Tank	£6	(£7)	Toners...	
Epson Stylus...			For Apple 300/320	£51 (£60)
Black Cartridge	£17	(£20)	For Apple 360	£81 (£95)
Colour Cartridge	£30	(£35)	For Apple 16/600	£90 (£106)
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360dpi Paper, 200 Sheet	£22	(£26)	For other consumables	£PHONE

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Plays CD ROMs, Photo CDs & Audio CDs. Plugs directly into your Mac

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GH CD SAVERS

GH MACPAC EXTRA APPLE CDs STARTING AT... £125 (£146.88 inc. VAT) While Stocks Last

D2 QUAD SPEEDCD!

MultiSpeed, MultiSession, Caddyless CD Drive. Voted Mac User BEST BUY Mar. 1995 £399 (£147)

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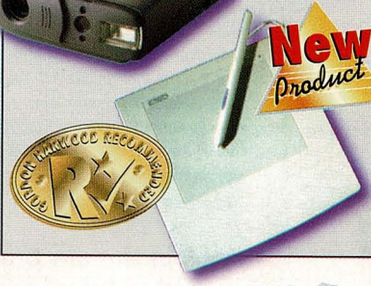
New Product



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APPLE DESIGN SPEAKERS II

Simply plug into your Mac for some great sounds

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BABT Approved

US ROBOTICS FAX MODEMS FROM... £145 (£170.38 inc. VAT)

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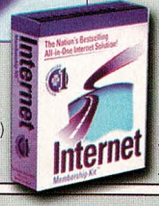
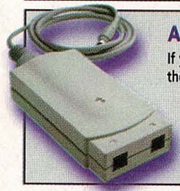
Sportster 288 V34 (28800) £230 (£271)

INTERNET Membership Kit (with any US Robotics Modem) £49 (£58)





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If you own a Macintosh AV model or a Powermac the Geoport provides access to one of your computer's built in features; a fully featured Fax Modem with send/receive capabilities operating at up to 14400 bps. Get your own Fax NOW!

Geoport Adaptor £94 (£111)

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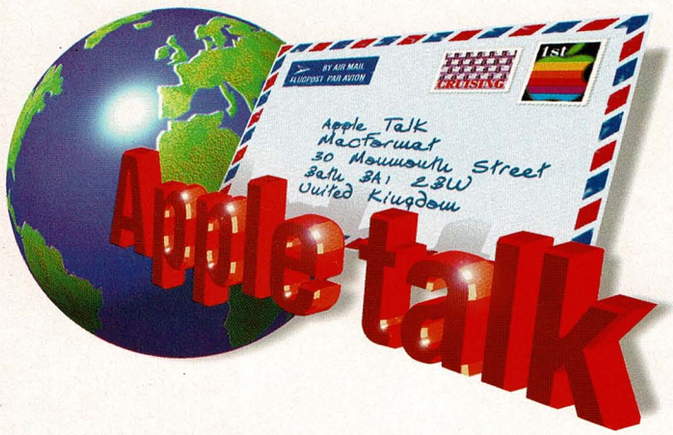

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You just can't lose! Using your skill and judgement, just write us an interesting, well-constructed, concise, witty and thought-provoking letter. We'll publish it here, Jim the Still-Quite-New Publisher will say 'Give that reader a binder!', and you'll receive a sparkling exclusive MACFORMAT binder in the mail! What could be simpler than that?

A little elaboration

I'm a little worried about an off-hand remark made in your article on 'hard drive alternatives' in MACFORMAT 21. 'Just as the 88Mb SyQuest drives had problems when first released,' you wrote, 'so the 270Mb 3.25-inch SyQuest drive has some reliability problems. One main retailer has recently stopped selling them for this very reason. It may be wise not to buy one just yet.' To toss out such a statement like that without a little elaboration is Not Good. Please put some sort of elaboration either on your Web page or in a future issue.

In November I bought a 3.5-inch 270Mb SyQuest removable from... well, an American Vendor. I've had some nasty problems with it. Perhaps if you were to be a little more specific about a few of those problems you glossed over, other Mac owners can avoid saving all sorts of difficult-to-replace data on media that craps out whenever the seasons change!

Glen Warner
Via CIX

Could you be more specific about your problem, please, Glen? (Sorry – cheap shot!) By 'reliability' we mean whether you can retrieve your stored data without access problems or corruption. But don't write off the 270Mb removables completely: the 88Mb type now seem to be over the teething troubles we referred to. We've tested several from Iomega (tel: 0800 898563) recently as part of its press evaluation program and had no problems at all with them.

And why is the sky blue?

Why can't more programs run in minuscule amounts of RAM like *ClarisWorks*? Why can't my DeskWriter print PostScript, and why isn't there something to do the same with graphics as *ATM* does with type? Why don't more programs accept Plug-ins to upgrade features instead of having whole new versions? And *why is everything so expensive*? Don't you think that just *encourages* software theft?

Dark Castle in colour. yesterday: does it help to know it first came out in mono in the days before System 6?

The big software names are so expensive that home users (an increasing group, I believe) can rarely justify the cost. Do the huge games out these days cost any less to produce? Surely not, but they still retail at around £40 because they *will* sell at that price. The expensive software houses are pricing themselves out of a market and possibly doing the same to the Mac too – if software is so expensive for a Mac, even if it is better, who can afford to change?

Jonathan Hicks
Hatfield, Herts.

Answers on a postcard, please, to 'Mysteries of the Universe' at the usual address. There's a million pounds and a knighthood, and quite possibly canonisation, for the correct answer.

Light on Dark Castle

Where are your roots? I know the magazine is only two years old, but a self-respecting Mac magazine should hire people who actually remember the times when an 8MHz 68000 was the top of the line.

In MACFORMAT 22, you actually do a full page review of Delta Tao's excellent remake of Silicon Beach's classic game *Dark*

PUBLISH AND BE CRITICISED...

Quick reactions and unthinking violence are the only way to survive in *Wolfenstein*. But is it so different from other games, apart from the imagery? And is censorship worse?

Back in MACFORMAT 20 we published a letter from Nicola Beauman of London NW3 saying that our cover disk demo of Wolfenstein 3D *was offensive because it was 'grotesquely violent' and used 'the imagery of Nazi torturers'. We asked for further comments.*

I think Nicola Beauman's arguments are deeply flawed, and her solution, censorship, is far worse than any problem she complains about.

In the first place, it is *her* responsibility to check that material sent to her household meets her personal prejudices about suitability for her children, if these differ from the general law, before passing it on, rather than attempt to slough off the issue onto the publisher.

Secondly, *Wolfenstein 3D* is a game based on storming, or escaping from, a defended position in the heat of battle. In saying 'six million people were killed by Nazis', Mrs Beauman disingenuously associates this with the cold blooded murder that was the Holocaust. The war in Europe actually cost two-thirds of a million Allied lives and about *20 million* Russian, as well as those of nearly three million decent Germans and other Axis soldiers and civilians. To drag the Holocaust into an argument to heat up its emotional connotations is a disgrace.

Thirdly, even if Mrs Beauman had framed her arguments in terms of the total casualties of World War II, she would still be completely wrong. As Abraham Lincoln put it in his Gettysburg Address, the tragic consequences of war are 'far above our poor power to add or detract'. Almost any 'take' on such events – be it serious, flippant, computer wargame, whatever – is better than treating them as taboo. Mrs Beauman should take the opportunity presented by the game to introduce material treating the subject in historical context, available in any bookshop, to her son, rather than seek to deny others such opportunities.

Wolfenstein doesn't look like the kind of thing that will get space on my hard disk, but its suppression would be a worse thing than its distribution, and I for one could not support a magazine that gave up its right to 'publish and be damned'.

MACFORMAT is not entirely blameless, however. Any professionally produced magazine has an editorial 'tone', and yours is unremitting flippancy, with occasional 'laddishness'. It should not have been too difficult to anticipate that there would be readers who, rightly or wrongly, would judge that tone inappropriate in a context such as *Wolfenstein*, and shape your remarks to avoid giving unnecessary opportunities to take offence.

David Lockwood
Leamington Spa, Warwicks.

Mrs Beauman objected to our caption: 'Hooray! Lots of ammo with which to shoot lots of people.' This was intended ironically to raise the issue of violence. Perhaps in future we should signal ironic comments with something like the 'smileys' that are used in electronic mail, like this: ;-)? (Look at it sideways.) Any more views?

Castle, without even bothering to mention the real thing.

When that game came out in the good old days it was a true breakthrough. Unfortunately it doesn't approve of System 6 or above. It was designed for the compact Macs with the original black-and-white nine-inch screen, with great attention to every detail. The graphics in Delta Tao's edition (which you rate at a mere 63%) are essentially the same as the originals, with some colour thrown in as a bonus. Before anyone can judge a game like *Dark Castle*, he has to see it fly on a Plus, or soar on an SE.

Kristbjorn Gunnarsson
Iceland, via CIX

You're right, we should have mentioned the original. But it's the new version that is competing for your money when you walk into a shop to buy a game, and it has to stand on its own merits. The same goes for some of the games reviewed this issue: Harpoon, Hellcats, Spectre, *even* Tetris, *for goodness' sake. Just a few months ago, we couldn't tear Derek away from* Wolfenstein, *but now that he's experienced* Marathon *he's more demanding. Times change, and standards with them; Mac systems become more powerful and people expect more from their games. By today's standards,* Dark Castle *won the still-respectable rating of 73%, which means 'well worthwhile' but no longer outstanding. That's the way it is.*

Elephant's graveyard sought

When I came across MACFORMAT I thought 'Mmm, nice mag – snappy, witty, laid out well, and relevant to my needs, but far too expensive.' I'd just browse it in WH Smith's. But yet again this month, rather than do the National Lottery, I've bought a copy. My chances of winning the dosh to buy all the Mac goodies I want have gone, but at least I get *some* software to play with. I stress *some* because unlike the unemployed father of two (in MACFORMAT 22) who seems to have at least a CD drive to read MACFORMAT discs, I'm a working father of one who can't get beyond an SE running System 6.

So the point of writing is to ask where does the old hardware and software go? Where did the SE/30 upgrades go? Where have the SE accelerators gone? What happened to System 6 software that became redundant when System 7 appeared? Where are the old Apple external hard drives? And so on.

I imagine there's a warehouse somewhere with all this old kit that can only be sold to former communist nations. If there is such a place, tell me and I'll pass myself off as a Russian.

Robert Moore
Buckfastleigh, Devon

Great idea. Derek says can he have an off-side rear door for his yellow Allegro too, please?

Too much trouble to pay

In recent issues of MACFORMAT, readers have written letters suggesting that shareware authors should accept credit card payments for their work. Come on, let's be realistic. The people who churn out shareware are hardly going to be sending upgrades and registration to every single person across the globe who pays for their work, even though they promise to. We are outside the boundaries of the all-powerful US of A, and it would cost them a small fortune to send all the stuff that they promise.

Generally, shareware authors are college students trying to get a bit of extra pocket money. They will make you feel as guilty as possible and promise you the world if it means you are going to pay. I am not saying that everyone should stop paying for their shareware, but if the software is a bit dodgy and it appears that the author has churned it out on a Sunday afternoon – don't go to too much trouble to pay for it. E-mail him to make sure he is still where he says he is, and make sure he will fulfil his promises worldwide.

Lawrence Staple
Via CIX

What if it seems to have taken two *afternoons? But seriously: shareware authors seem pretty committed people, and it seems rare for them to fail to send the manual or upgrade they've promised in return for a shareware fee. I'd be interested to hear from anyone who has experience to the contrary.*

What we meant was...

A minor quibble really. On page 87 of MACFORMAT 21, in response to an enquiry about floating point co-processors for the LC475, your 'Mac Answers' expert states that nothing can be done, while on page 85 of the same issue an advert is offering 68040 replacement processors at £175 specifically for that machine.

Matthew Carey
London

You're right. The final sentence of our answer read: 'If you are in desperate need of an FPU then you should consider upgrading your machine to one with a full FPU.' We should have made it clear that this doesn't necessarily mean you have to buy a whole new machine. Some Mac models (including the LCII, LCIII and the corresponding Performa models, the Performa 400 and 450) can accept simple plug-in or piggy-back maths co-processors, which cost only around £37. Unfortunately, the only way to add an FPU to the 475 models is to replace their 68LC040 central processing chip completely with a new 68040 chip, which includes an integral FPU, and this will set you back over £200 (including VAT). Check the adverts in this issue for suppliers. Sorry for any confusion. **MF**

How to get in touch with MacFormat

- Our address for letters is on page 36 – the shorter your letter, the better its chances of being printed. Longer letters may be published in our regular 'Soapbox' section (on page 136 this month). If you'd like a letter included in 'Readers' Corner' on our CD-ROM, ensure it has no defamation or obscenity in it and then send it in as a *TeachText* document on a disk marked 'MACFORMAT Readers' Corner'. Include your name and address, and note that we can't return your disk.
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More MACFORMAT binder winners: R Van Loon of Den Haag, Holland, has sent us this very apt example of image manipulation, and Jeremy Scott of London SE1 went to the trouble of creating an appropriate entry for our recent desktop video competition. Remember, whenever you write to MACFORMAT or enter a compo, an eyecatching postcard could win you a binder too!

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1994 was the year of the CD ROM.
1995 is the year of the Internet

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FROM 10 YEARS UP

VSNS **Visions** (detailed astrological horoscopes and charts) £29.00
CRWR **Creative Writer** (DTP for kids) £35.00
ETHT **EarthQuest** (a new type of multi curricular learning) £34.00
MGLB **MacGlobe** (complete world info, maps. Essential) £39.00
DCFM **Decimals & Fractions Maze** (helps older kids) £35.00
TYEN **Typing Instructor** (good training from basics to touch) £25.00
VYGR **Voyager Astronomy** (fascinating desktop planetarium) ... £105.00
WIWD **Where in World is Carmen DeLuxe** (geography based) £49.00

Special low Education prices are available on some products, including Microsoft, Claris and others, to authorized educational establishments with Educational Purchase Orders.

CD ROM

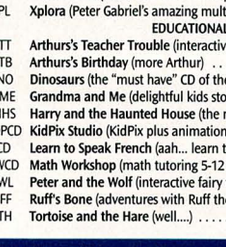
GENERAL/GAMES

CDRT **CD ROM Toolkit** (speeds up CD access) £59.00
7GCD **7th Guest** (an incredible real time 3D adventure) £35.00
HRDN **A Hard Day's Night** (The Beatles Movie on CD) £29.00
ALCD **Ancient Lands** (multimedia history) £39.00
BTCHC **Battle Chess** (full colour animated Chess Game) £35.00
B9CD **Beethovens 9th** (the symphony and all about it) £65.00
BMUG **BMUG** (huge collection of public domain and shareware) £29.00
JUMP **David Bowie - Jump** (pop culture goes interactive) £29.00
GTKCD **Ferrari GP, Fokker Triplane, P51 Mustang Bundle** £29.00
GODCD **How God Makes God** (ingeneous spiritual guide) £25.00
IRNB **Iron Helix & Dark Seed (fantastic space/adventure bundle) £25.00**
LYKC **Legend of Kyrandia** (journey through magical lands) £29.00
MYST **MYST** (magical mystery adventure) £35.00
PRNCD **"Prince"** (music and multimedia from the great one) £35.00
RTTZ **Return to Zork** (multimedia adventure game) £35.00
RBAS **Rebel Assault** (Star Wars like game - brilliant) £35.00
THMP **Theme Park** (create the best theme park ever!!) £34.00
EXPL **Xplora** (Peter Gabriel's amazing multimedia CD) £29.00

EDUCATIONAL

ARTT **Arthurs's Teacher Trouble** (interactive story book) £29.00
ARTB **Arthurs's Birthday** (more Arthur) £35.00
DINO **Dinosaurs** (the "must have" CD of the year) £45.00
GRME **Grandma and Me** (delightful kids story) £29.00
HHHS **Harry and the Haunted House** (the new best seller) £34.00
KDPCD **KidPix Studio** (KidPix plus animation) £35.00
LFCD **Learn to Speak French** (aah... learn to speak French) £115.00
MWCD **Math Workshop** (math tutoring 5-12 age group) £34.00
PTWL **Peter and the Wolf** (interactive fairy tale) £29.00
RUFF **Ruff's Bone** (adventures with Ruff the dog) £35.00
TRTH **Tortoise and the Hare** (well....) £29.00

TIRED OLD MOUSE?



The four buttoned Thinking Mouse lets you double click with just one click, lock a button down with a click. And you can print a document, save a file, enter a block of text all with just one click!

KENSINGTON MICE

Turbo mouse is the first truly programmable Mac trackball that integrates both hardware and software. Advances include Slow Cursor and the new Brilliant Cursor.

JMAN **The Journeyman Project** (amazing 3D adventure) £32.00
THUM **Thumbelina** (interactive fairy tale) £29.00
WLJCD **Wallobee Jack** (wonderful interactive kids cartoon) £27.00

REFERENCE

3DAD **3D Atlas** (simply wonderful) £49.00
MAGCD **Art Gallery** (Microsoft's tour of the National) £39.00
BKSCD **Book Shelf** (superb CD ROM for everyday reference needs) £75.00
CINI **Cinemania 95** (19000 movie reviews and more) £39.00
DSTCD **Distant Suns** (astronomy based cd) £65.00
DCLW **Dictionary of the Living World** (award winning) £29.00
NCRT **Encarta** (fantastic multimedia encyclopedia) £79.00
GRLCD **Groliers Encylopaedia 95** (21 volumes, 9 million words!) . £89.00
HLWCD **Halliwells** (the famous film encyclopaedia on CD) £25.00
HCWCD **How Computers Work** (excellent guide to technology) £40.00
JPTR **Jupiter** (photos of the comet impact) £26.00
MCBT **Macbeth** (the Scottish Play) £65.00
MICD **Musical Instruments** (Microsoft's excellent entry) £39.00
OEDCD **Oxford English Dictionary** (the whole thing on CD ROM) .£425.00
REDCD **Red Shift** (superb astronomy program) £49.00
SHCD **Shakespeare Complete Works** (at your fingertips) £19.00
SBP **Small Blue Planet** (pictures, geography of the planet) £49.00
STTM **Star Trek Interactive Tech Manual** (tour de Enterprise) £29.00
TLFA **Time/Life Astrology (astrology primer)** £19.00
WRPA **Warplanes** (an interactive history) £45.00
WBY **Wild Blue Yonder** (US fighter planes, stunning) £35.00

MUSIC

BMTL **EZ Starter Kit** (MIDI interface, EZ Vision, book) £175.00
PRMC **Practica Musica** (teaches music theory and ear training) . £75.00
SONG **SongWorks** (interactive music composition) £65.00
STDI **Super Studio Session** (8 voice composer and player) £69.00
MDIN **MIDI Interface** £59.00

UTILITIES & DA's

PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCERS, FILE & DISK MANAGEMENT

EASE **At Ease** (secure Finder replacement) £35.00
CNCT **Conflict Catcher II** (INIT manager and more) £49.00
CDU **CDU** (excellent collection of Desktop utilities) £49.00
NDBP **DiskDoubler Pro** (DiskDoubler,AutoDoubler,CopyDoubler) .£59.00
EXPO **Exposure Pro** (screen dump utility with paint tools) £82.00
FTF **First Things First** (alarms, reminders, to do's) £45.00
HDTKP **Hard Disk Toolkit** (Personal Edition) £59.00
HDTK **Hard Disk Toolkit** (the best formatter and checker) £125.00
INPK **InitPicker 3.0** (choose to use or disable your startup Inits) .£39.00
MCTA **MacTools Pro 4.0** (disk safety and protection utility) £79.00
NUTD **Now Up-To-Date** (calendar and reminder system) £65.00
NUM **Norton Utilities 3.1** (best selling utilities package) £79.00
NOWU **Now Utilities 5.0** (suite of essential utilities) £65.00
POPF **PopUpFolder** (view folder contents with submenus) £30.00
QCKY **QuicKeys 3.1** (macro maker, time saver utility) £85.00
QCDX **QuickDex II** (lightning fast DA database, essential) £32.00
RAMD **RAMDoubler** (actually doubles your available RAM!) £55.00
SFDL **Stuffit DeLuxe** (famous file compression program) £59.00
SUIT **Suitcase 2.14** (manage your font menus) £35.00
WNWT **WindoWatch** (logs time usage of windows) £85.00

SECURITY

CTDL **Citadel** (lock your info from prying eyes) £59.00
DKGD **DiskGuard** (control access to your hard drive) £69.00
EMPW1 **Empower** (file & data security) ..... from £120.00
MPR1 **MacPrefect** (secures most aspects of the Finder) £30.00

SCREEN SAVERS

AFDK **After Dark 3.0** (famous screen saver with many modules) .£25.00
DSNY **Disney Screen Saver** (simply magical) £27.00
STAB **Ultimate Star Trek** (screen saver and posters bundle) £39.00
FARS **The Far Side** (Larson at his best) £29.00
FLTS **The Flintstones** (cartoon, movie and now...) £19.00
SMSN **The Simpsons** (irreverent humour) £29.00
DRTY **Underware** (humorous screen saver) £25.00

BACKUP & VIRUS PROTECTION

OPDT **DeskTape** (treats DAT as if it were a 2Gb drive) £225.00
PRSB **Personal Backup** (best value backup on the market) £35.00
REDX **Redux Deluxe 2.51** (powerful floppy backup) £49.00
RTSP **Retrospect 2.1i** (most sophisticated archival backup) from £145.00
SAM **SAM 4.0** (Symantec's anti virus utility) £49.00
VIRX **Virex 5.0** (best virus tracer & eradicator of all) £59.00

ENTERTAINMENT

ARCADE

MBSL ✔**Best Sellers Pack** (Hellcats, Spectre, SuperTetris) £32.00
CRQ2 ✔**Crystal Quest 2** (Britain's favourite game) £22.00
CRYC ✔**Crystal Crazy** (sequel to Britain's favourite game) £34.00
DLVR ✔**Deliverance** (hack and slash) £29.00
FOTF ➢**Fury of the Furries** (Nintendo style platform game) £25.00
LEM3 ✔**Lemmings/Oh No! More Lemmings Bundle** £22.00
MRTH ➢**Marathon (prepare to meet thy "Doom")** £39.00
PGLG ➢**PegLeg (totally addictive invaders style game)** £23.00
PROP2 ✔**Prince of Persia II** (more and better, can you resist?) .. £29.00
SNOV ➢**Sensory Overload** ("Doom" for the Mac) £35.00

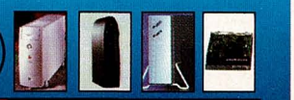
SIMULATIONS

CVLN ✔**Civilisation** (create your own) £29.00
CYAC ➢**Chuck Yeager's Air Combat** (fly with Chuck) £34.00
CRBL ✔**Crystal Caliburn** (classic pinball game) £32.00
F18H ➢**F/A18 Hornet** (from the creators of Hellcats) £49.00
F18K ➢**Korean Crisis** (mission disk for F/A18) £32.00
FLYN ➢**Flying Nightmares** (strategy and flight sim in one) £22.00
FLSM ✔**Microsoft Flight Simulator** (serious, realistic, accurate) . £35.00
OOTS ➢**Out of the Sun** (dogfight in three WWII battles) £22.00
PWDK ✔**Pathways into Darkness** (kill the evil maze monsters) .. £39.00
PGAG2 ✔**PGA Golf II** (far and away the best Golf game) £29.00
PLPG ✔**Links Pro Golf** (so realistic you'll think you're there!!) ... £34.00
PPL2 ✔**Populous II** (want to play God?) £29.00
PWMG ✔**Powermonger** (can you rule the world?) £29.00
SIMC2 ✔**Sim City 2000** (design and run your own city) £29.00

NEW PRODUCTS ARE IN RED, BUNDLES IN BLUE

HARD DRIVES

THE CHOICE IS YOURS



CAPACITY	APPLE	D2	JET	INTRNL
270Mb		£239		£135
365Mb			£235	£155
500Mb	£315	£315	£255	£165
730Mb			£295	£215
1000Mb	£645	£615	£499	£425
1400Mb				£625
2000Mb		£999	£945	£845

128Mb Optical Drive £545.00
230Mb Optical Drive £715.00
D2 88Mb Syquest Drive £265.00
D2 200Mb Syquest Drive £399.00
2Gb DAT Drive £865.00
44Mb Syquest Cartridge £32.00
88Mb Syquest Cartridge £36.00
200Mb Syquest Cartridge £55.00
128Mb Optical Cartridge £25.00
230Mb Optical Cartridge £35.00

SYND ✔**Syndicate/Populous I** (control the world) £34.00
SIMC ✔**Sim Classics** (Sim Life, Ant and City in one bundle) £29.00
THME ✔**Theme Park** (create the best theme park ever!!) £34.00

ADVENTURES

BBII ✔**Battle of Britain** (what can one say) £37.00
LTIF ✔**Lost Treasures of Infocom** (bargain adventure bundle) .£22.00

BOARD/CARD GAMES

BTCH ✔**Battle Chess** (animated and powerful game) £25.00
BRDG ✔**Bridge** (from novice to advanced playing levels) £24.00
CHCH ✔**Chess Champion** (best Chess game) £25.00
ERIC ✔**Eric's Ultimate Solitaire** (a dozen patience games) £35.00
PWPK ✔**Power Poker** (dozens of games) £29.00
SHNG ✔**Shanghai II** (great graphics, addictive brain teaser) £17.00

KEY ✔ works on most Macs, ➢ Colour Macs only.
Please check whether your chosen game is compatible with your Mac when ordering.

BOOKS & TRAINING

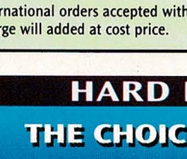
Top 20 best-selling books

AM394 **Internet Starter Kit** £27.50
AM165 **The Quark Xpress Book** £29.99
AM251 **Little Mac Book** £14.99
AM360 **Internet Tour Guide** £26.40
AM143 **Photoshop Wow Book** £31.61
AM480 **Macworld Photoshop Bible** £38.99
AM371 **Using ClarisWorks** £20.95
AM267 **The Macintosh Bible 5th Ed** £34.99
AM355 **The Tao of Applescript** £23.35
AM118 **Using FileMaker Pro 2.0** £25.95
BRESC **Resedit 2 Complete** £28.95
AM416 **Macworld FreeHand 4.0 Bible** £27.99
AM390 **Complete HyperCard 2.2 4th Ed** £32.50
AM134 **Imaging Essentials** £29.99
AM356 **Macworld Mac Secrets** £36.99
AM213 **Macworld Networking Handbook** £26.99
AM396 **Internet Yellow Pages** £21.95
BUW5 **Using Word 6.0 for the Mac** £24.95
AM350 **PageMaker 5.0 for the Mac** £22.95
BIMx **Inside Macintosh** ..... from £19.25

TRAINING

Personal Training ....4 to 6 modules per app, ...each module £49.00 (audio cassette application training for: New Mac Users: System 7.0, PageMaker 5.0, Xpress 3.3, Microsoft Works, Word 5.0, Excel 5.0, Persuasion, Illustrator, FreeHand, FileMaker and Claris Works)

PAINTER 3.0



Fractal Design Painter is filled with a whole lineup of outstanding features with something really cool for everyone. Painter lets you create natural looking images, combining oils, pastels, pencils and watercolours all on the same canvas. It also includes the ability to create custom brushes - with control right down to the smallest bristle! It lets you experiment with 'floating' selections so you can re-arrange your composition however you like in seconds. It's the best paint program on the Mac bar none!

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Power Mac 6100/60 8/250

including 486 DOS card

optional CD

NEW PRODUCT

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PERFORMA BUNDLES

475P **Performa 475Plus 4/250** & Performa Display & keyboard, ClarisWorks 2.1, PC Exchange, Typing Teacher, Clip Art collections, Spectre, Home Publisher, TouchBase, DateBook. £795.00

630D **Performa 630 4/250** & Performa Display & keyboard, ClarisWorks 2.1, PC Exchange £925.00

630E **Performa 630Plus 8/250 CD & 15" Multiple Scan Display** & keyboard, PC Exchange, ClarisWorks 2.1, Typing Teacher, Clip Art collections, Spectre, Groliers, Dinosaurs and three other CD ROMS £1099.00

630P **Performa 630Plus 8/350 CD TV/Video & 15" Multiple Scan Display** & keyboard, PC Exchange, ClarisWorks 2.1, Typing Teacher, Clip Art collections, Spectre Supreme, Groliers, Microsoft Dinosaurs and three other CD ROMS. £1299.00

PERFORMA CPUs

475A Performa 475 4/250 . . . . . £655.00
475B Performa 475 8/250 . . . . . £735.00
630A Performa 630 4/250 . . . . . £815.00
630B Performa 630 8/250/CD £945.00
630C Performa 630 8/350/CD/TV/Video-in . . . £1150.00

all the above include keyboard, ClarisWorks 2.1, PC Exchange, At Ease and training materials.

630F Quadra 630 4/250. . . . . £875.00

POWER MACs

PC6F Power Mac 6100/60 8/250/Houdini £1565.00
PC6G Power Mac 6100/60 8/250/CD/Houdini . £1665.00
PM6A Power Mac 6100/66 8/350 . . . . . £1245.00
PM6B Power Mac 6100/66 8/350/CD £1395.00
PM6D Power Mac 6100/66 16/350/CD/PC. . . . £1695.00
PM7A Power Mac 7100/80 8/350 . . . . . £1825.00
PM7B Power Mac 7100/80 8/700/CD £2145.00
PM7C Power Mac 7100/80 8/700/CD/AV £2245.00
PM8A Power Mac 8100/100 8/700 . . . . . £2595.00
PM8B Power Mac 8100/100 16/700/CD £2945.00
PM8C Power Mac 8100/100 16/1Gb/CD/AV . . . £3225.00
PC8H Power Mac 8100/110 16/2Gb/CD £4095.00

PowerPC PowerPC PowerPC

Power Mac 8100/100 8/700

optional CD, AV

NEW PRODUCT

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from only £2595

POWERBOOKS

P15A PowerBook 150 4/120 . . . . . £745.00
P52A PowerBook 520 4/160 . . . . . £1245.00
P52B PowerBook 520c 4/160. . . . . £1775.00
P52C PowerBook 520c 12/320/Modem. £2295.00
P54C PowerBook 540c 4/320. . . . . £2795.00
P54D PowerBook 540c 12/500/Modem. £3395.00
P28C PowerBook Duo 280c 4/320. . . . . £2245.00
P28D PowerBook Duo 280c 4/320/Modem. . . £2595.00
PDDX PowerBook Duo Docking Station. £645.00
PMD PowerBook Duo Mini Dock £265.00
NMP4 Newton MessagePad 110 . . . . . £345.00
NMP5 Newton MessagePad 120 . . . . . £425.00

...NEW...NEW...NEW...NEW...

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from only £1595

Apple's top A4 printer offers 600dpi resolution and prints at a whopping 16 pages per minute. FinePrint smooths out lines and curves that normally print jagged and PhotoGrade allows you to print up to 91 levels of grey - equivalent to 1000 dpi! Using the Fax Card all users on the network can exchange faxes with any Group 3 fax machine, and it will print at up to 600dpi if received from another PostScript fax machine. Includes built-in Ethernet.

APPLE SERVERS

AWSA AWS 6150 8/500/CD & AppleShare 4.02. £2395.00
AWSB AWS 8150 16/2000/CD/DAT & AppleShare 4.0.2. . . . . £5495.00
AWSC AWS 9150 24/4000/DAT & AppleShare 4.0.2. . . . . £7895.00
AWS9B AWS 95 32/1000/256/DAT & AppleShare Pro. £7295.00

APPLE MONITORS

M14C 14" Colour. £260.00
MAV14 14" Audio Vision Display £355.00
M15C 15" MultiScan Colour £299.00
M17C 17" Colour. £699.00
M20C 20" Colour. £1395.00

APPLE PRINTERS

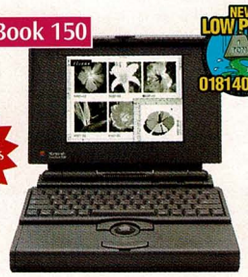
STY2 StyleWriter II £215.00
STYP Portable StyleWriter £235.00
CSP Colour StyleWriter 2400 . . . . . £395.00
IW ImageWriter II. £260.00

DESPITE THE ARRIVAL OF POWER PC, TRIED & TESTED MACS ARE STILL AROUND - AND THEY COST LESS TOO!!

PowerBook 150

NEW LOW PRICE 0181 401 1111

INCLUDES FREE COPY OF CLARISWORKS 2.1



With its 33Mhz 68030 processor, the PowerBook 1504/120 is really fast and easier to lug around than a Performa!

for only £745

Performa 475

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Performa 630

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This is the best Mac since the SE30. It comes with 4Mb of RAM and a 250Mb Hard Drive, keyboard and a Performa monitor - and loads of software!

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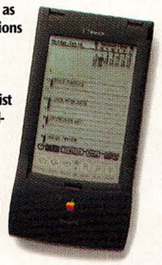
NEWTON 120

- 2Mb of user RAM giving 3 times as much storage space for applications and data as the 110.
- Improved screen quality.
- Removable lid.
- Includes Notion™, the Newton list manager - currently the best selling Newton application.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

- A complete GSM connectivity package including Nokia 2110 phone, Nokia Cellular Data Card and cable, Cellnet airtime package.



only £425

LWP3	LaserWriter Personal 300	£450.00
LS32	LaserWriter Personal 320	£665.00
LS36	LaserWriter Select 360	£1095.00
LS36E	LaserWriter Select 360 Ethernet Adaptor	£175.00
L16A	LaserWriter 16/600 PS	£1595.00
L16C	LaserWriter 16/600 PS with Fax	£1745.00

ACCESSORIES

INPUT DEVICES

KB	Keyboard, Apple Design	£80.00
KBA	Keyboard, Adjustable	£165.00
KBE	Keyboard, Extended	£140.00
CD3	Apple CD 300e plus external	£195.00
CD3I/x	Apple CD 300i plus internal	£195.00
CSCN	OneScanner Colour	£975.00
AQT	Apple QuickTake 100 inc. interface	£275.00
ASP2	AppleDesign Powered Speakers II	£55.00

PowerPC PowerPC PowerPC

Power Mac 7100/80

8/350

optional CD, AV

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MIKA	Microphone	£19.00
MIKB	PlainTalk Microphone (AVs/PowerMacs)	£25.00
PLTx	PlainTalk Software	£34.00
MSADB	ADB Mouse II (Desktop)	£39.00

GENERAL

APRK	Apple Presentation Kit	£225.00
DCCA	DOS Compatibility Card for 6100	£410.00
NBC6	NuBUS Adaptor 610	£79.00
NBPC	NuBUS Adaptor 6100	£52.00
LCEx	Ethernet Card for 630	£59.00
GEOx	GeoPort Telecoms Adaptor	£99.00
STY2C	StyleWriter Cartridges	£15.00

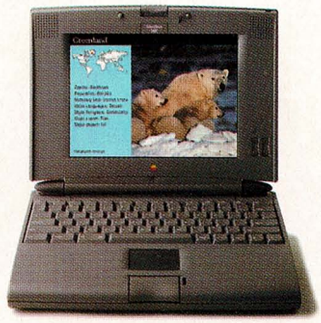
POWERBOOK

P14B	PowerBook 140/145/160/170/180 Battery	£45.00
PNIC	PowerBook Duo Type III Battery	£55.00
P5IB	PowerBook 500 Battery	£89.00
P14R	PowerBook 145/160/170/180 Recharger	£69.00
PDUR	PowerBook Duo Battery Recharger	£86.00
PDAC	PowerBook Duo AC Adaptor	£45.00
PWPA	PowerBook 100-180 AC Adaptor	£45.00
P5AC	PowerBook 500 AC Adaptor	£95.00
PBB	PowerBook Bag Business	£45.00
PBS	PowerBook Bag Standard	£22.00
P15B	PowerBook 150 Memory Adaptor	£24.00
PDEM	PowerBook Duo Express Modem	£225.00
PEM2	PowerBook 500 Express Modem	£345.00

APPLE SOFTWARE

AFP	Apple Font Pack	£49.00
AST	AppleScript Scripters Toolkit	£120.00
APSH4	AppleShare 4.0 Software	£1245.00
ASSA	AppleSearch Server & Clients	£875.00
ARAPS	Apple Remote Access Server	£135.00

POWERBOOK 540c



PowerBook 540c series, with active matrix colour screen, trackpad instead of trackball, up to 500Mb internal drive, optional modem.

from £3175

ARAC	Apple Remote Access Client	£42.00
EASE	At Ease 2.0	£34.00
APD	Apple Personal Diagnostics	£79.00
EASW	At Ease 2.0 Workgroup	£125.00
HYPC	HyperCard 2.2	£95.00
INRT	Internet Router 3.0	£335.00
INPL	InterPoll	£89.00
SYSJ	Language Kit - Japanese	£145.00
SYSC	Language Kit - Chinese	£155.00
PCEX	PC Exchange	£45.00
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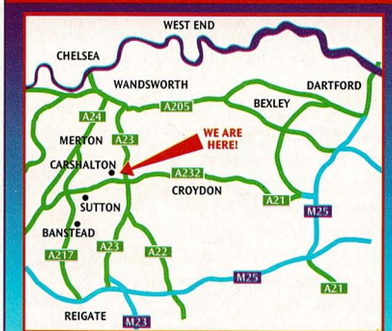

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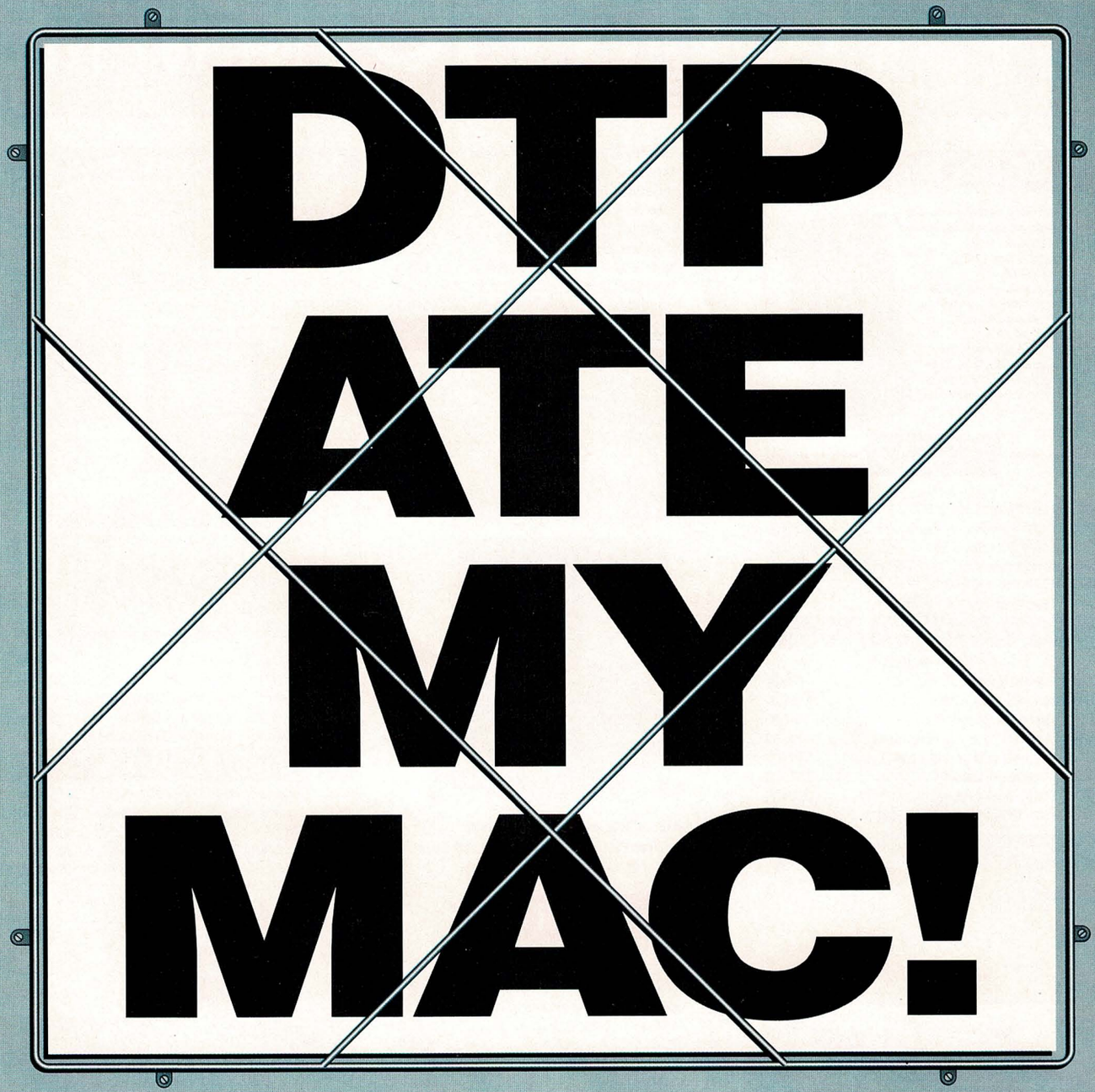


Which Mac DTP package is the best buy? Alistair Dabbs tests the five big ones head to head: *Adobe PageMaker* v *FrameMaker* v *QuarkXPress* v *ReadySetGo* v *VivaPress Pro*...

GET OUT AND PUSH
Some people think you can use a high-end word processor for DTP. This is like entering a Skoda in a Formula One Grand Prix: you might get there in the end, but either you or the vehicle will probably give up first.

Before there was such a thing as DTP, publishing was painstaking and expensive. The bureaus who typeset your text needed precise instructions about fonts, sizes and measures for each different part of your typescript, and they produced long rolls of text that layout artists would have to slice up and stick down by hand, in between the pictures. If you wanted to correct a typographical error – or you just changed your mind about something in the text – you gave the typesetters details on paper and they came back with a new roll of paper, plus a bill for every alteration. You then had to paste new paragraphs, lines or sometimes just single words in the right place and make them all line up properly.

Try out the save-disabled demos of these DTP programs on the CD-ROM

Now, with your Mac and a desktop publishing program, you can take complete control over your own pages – and especially over cost. No more paying a fiver for each extra comma! You can design and redesign your work at will, try out new ideas and keep making changes right up until your deadline – and you don't even have to wait for the paste to dry.

So what makes up a DTP program? Essentially, it's one that gives you control of the three main aspects of page

make-up: text and pictures, plus colour. A desktop publishing program will offer precise control over text formatting and picture positioning, over and above the functions possible in even the top word processors, plus classic layout tools such as rules and keylines.

With colour printers becoming ever more affordable (you can now bring colour to your world for as little as £300 – see MACFORMAT 23), not even the humblest newsletter need be merely mono, so all Mac DTP programs give you extensive colour controls. They also handle artwork, enabling you to do everything from flip and crop images, to screen RGB scans into CMYK separations according to a specific dot gain.

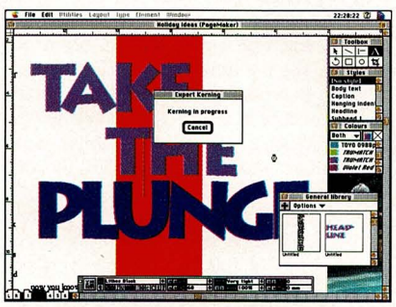
The way in which these five programs deal with each area differs considerably. The best way to find out what they can do is to try them out for yourself – fully-usable (save-disabled) versions are on this issue's MACFORMAT CD-ROM. But to give you an overview, we'll take seven key usage tests, drag each package through the mud and back again to see which one comes out smelling the sweetest. Okay then, let's roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty.

Text manipulation

The ability to manipulate text is the bread and butter of any DTP application. All those advanced features you find in high-end word processors, such as style sheets, dictionaries and paragraph formatting, are the bare minimum for any DTP package. On top of these, you'll find features such as horizontal scaling, baselines, chains and precision placement.

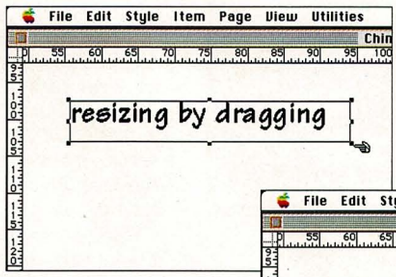
Adobe PageMaker is sometimes rejected by 'freeform' art designers, but it's very strong typographically. It provides a whole range of expert kerning and tracking facilities. This is not just something you need when running huge headline point sizes either: the difference between default and corrected kerning on body copy can be striking. *PageMaker* is also good for straightforward copy editing, enabling you to call up a story editor window and correct any chain of text easily.

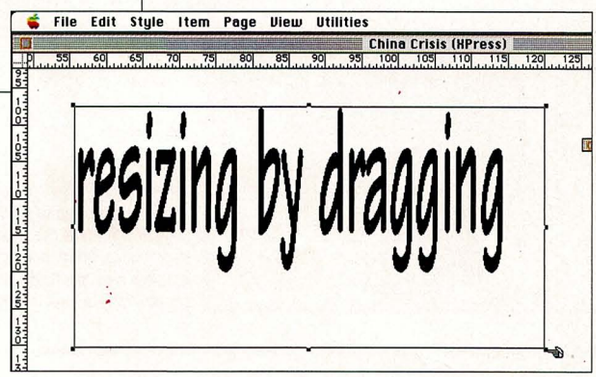
FrameMaker isn't as adept at fine-tuning as most DTP packages, and even the features it has aren't obvious. As a result, it's a bit fiddly for on-the-fly adjustment – you can't call up a *PageMaker*-style story editor, for instance. And it's laborious when creating advance settings. In this respect *FrameMaker* resembles a word processor, if a highly functional one. But *FrameMaker's* ace card is a table editor. Since the package is aimed at people producing complex structured documents, like manuals and reports, this table editor is a godsend.



PageMaker's expert kerning Addition can take its time, but the results are well worth the wait, automatically applying kerning adjustments that are little short of perfect. High praise indeed!

Click on a corner handle in *XPress* and drag out with the **[command]** key depressed...





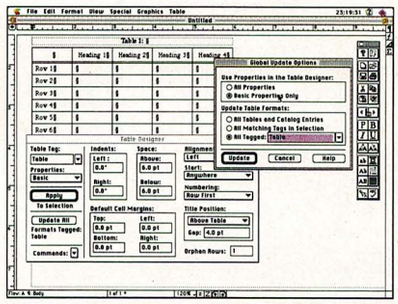
... As you can see this dynamically alters both point size and horizontal scaling, and the text doesn't even have to be highlighted.

You won't find a story or table editor in *QuarkXPress*, but you can bury yourself in custom typography right down to the finest measure. There are some rather-nice touches too, such as the facility to adjust both point size and horizontal scaling visually; you just drag out the text box while holding down the **[option]** and **[command]** keys. All localised adjustments, from scaling and leading to shifting selected characters above or below the baseline, can be controlled with keyboard shortcuts. And the kerning and tracking tools are a close second to *PageMaker's*.

Working with text in *ReadySetGo* is similar to working in *XPress* in that everything resides within a frame. Linking text frames is much swifter, even if *ReadySetGo* lacks arrows to tell you what's been linked where. But overall the program is sluggish, which makes it difficult just to dive into a text block and start editing. Rotating text is a similarly slow process, taking anything from 10-30 seconds on a Quadra 650 – and the rotated results are rather ropey.

VivaPress Pro looks simple but is deceptively powerful. It provides a large and clear kerning dialogue, even if the tracking preferences are oddly non-interactive. In a way, the typographical controls in *VivaPress Pro* feel like pared down versions of *PageMaker's* and *XPress's*. Minimalist dialogue boxes may be beautiful to some, but a **Cancel** button, for those occasions when you change your mind, certainly wouldn't have gone amiss... Another irritation with *VivaPress Pro* is the way it doesn't conform with highlighting norms: you can't double-click on a word and drag the highlight over a group of words, for example.

Tabular work is the bane of a layout artist's life, but *FrameMaker's* fast-working table editor actually makes it a pleasure... almost.



Text manipulation

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	85%
FrameMaker 4.0	70%
QuarkXPress 3.31	85%
ReadySetGo 6.03	65%
VivaPress Pro 1.5	75%

Graphics manipulation

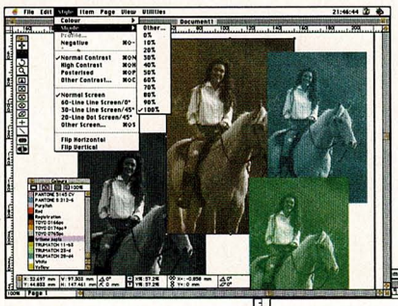
You might not be very interested in high-end graphics reproduction – scanning and planning of artwork and photographs. Or you may use only very limited types of artwork, such as diagrams created in *Illustrator* or *FreeHand*. But if you need serious graphics support, it's nice to know if your program can take the strain.

PageMaker accepts a wide range of import formats, all of which can be output with page film. The treatment can be inconsistent, however. In our tests, a medium resolution scanned photo saved as a professional TIFF caused no end of memory and display problems, yet reimporting the photo as a PICT file resolved them immediately. In its favour, *PageMaker* enables you to manipulate images in a variety of ways, from rotating to shearing, with fully controllable text runarounds. Set against this is the fact that screen redraws slow down noticeably when you display images at best quality.

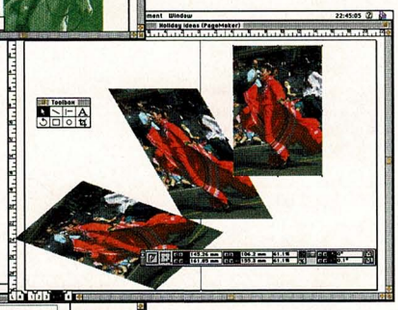
In comparison, *FrameMaker* is rather pedestrian in its graphics support. You

Continued on next page

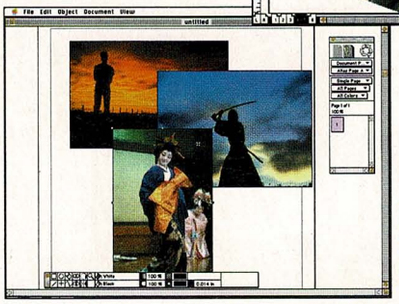
DTP ATE MY MAC!



You can inject some life into the images you get from your greyscale flatbed scanner by applying *XPress's* duotone, tritone and other special effects to ordinary TIFFs.



Sure, everyone lets you rotate graphics these days, but very few let you apply a shear distort like *PageMaker*.



A mere three PICTs in an empty document fills a good 5Mb of RAM in *VivaPress Pro*. I tried them first as TIFFs, but the program had insufficient memory (in 7Mb) to import even one.

can bring in the usual basic bunch of Mac formats, but nothing fancy. Nor can you really do much with graphics once they're on the page – other than resize, stretch, squash and crop them. What it does do, it does fairly quickly; *FrameMaker* crops pictures more quickly than *PageMaker*, for example, which requires a special tool for the job.

Of all Mac DTP packages, *XPress* is the unchallenged graphics king. In addition to a fistful of import filters, *XPress* can separate CMYK and RGB graphics. And TIFF support has always been one of *XPress's* strong points, giving you the facility to carry out limited image adjustment without leaving the program – you can even turn a greyscale TIFF into a genuine duotone. On top of this, the latest version of *XPress*, 3.31, is better than ever at screen redraws, even with several high-resolution colour scans scattered about the page.

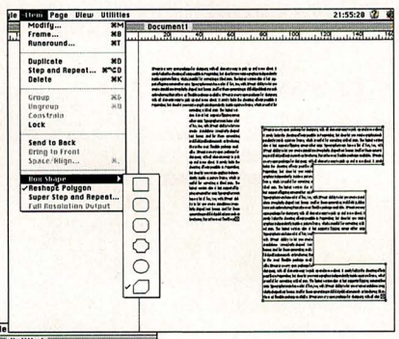
VivaPress, in contrast to *XPress*, is slow at redrawing and at manipulating images. In theory, with *VivaPress Pro's* universal frame ideology, it ought to be a doddle to drag out a frame, import a picture and adjust it. In fact, the whole process is slowed down by program pauses with each command, and by the need not just to create an empty graphic frame but to click inside it once before you can get access to the import command. Worst of all, memory management of imported images just can't be compared with any of the other packages here. Importing a 1Mb scan was impossible, although I did manage to get three PICTs – not a desktop publisher's favourite image format for four-colour output – on the page after increasing the program's RAM allocation to 7Mb. In comparison, *XPress* can easily accommodate two 1Mb-plus 24-bit graphics on a spread, along with a gradient fill, in under 2Mb of RAM.

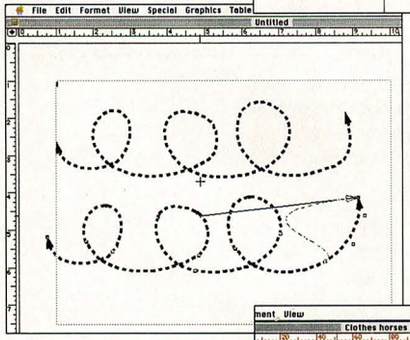
Graphic import formats for *ReadySetGo* are limited to PICTs, EPSs and TIFFs, but as with most of the packages here (except for *XPress*) it was unable to place anything but PICTs when it came to high-res colour scans. However, what it does do is provide some interesting interactive tone control over greyscale TIFFs. As a word of warning, you won't want to be too clever with your pictures in *ReadySetGo* because of the memory hit: even with 5Mb of RAM allocated to the program, the smaller of two images on a single spread could not be rotated at all because of an apparent lack of memory.

Graphics manipulation

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	**70%**
FrameMaker 4.0	**60%**
QuarkXPress 3.31	**90%**
ReadySetGo 6.03	**60%**
VivaPress Pro 1.5	**60%**

Budding poets and fledgling publishers of children's books could have a field day with *XPress's* easy polygon conversion of text frames. The new frames remain editable and resizable even after conversion.





Considering that *FrameMaker* is a textual organiser, its freehand rule tool with Bézier handles is a remarkable inclusion – and it's just great for diagrams.

If you thought polygon text and picture frames were clever, try *VivaPress Pro's* killer Bézier tool for a few minutes: you may not want to go back.

Design tools

All four packages provide a crude assortment of box frame and rule tools. In terms of print design, *PageMaker* is one of the best. Sure, it shares the same kind of functionality as *XPress* and *Viva Press*, enabling you to move elements around the page and rotate them freely. But for the freeform typographical designer there is a definite benefit in being able to click anywhere and start typing. Few other packages give you this kind of directness.

FrameMaker is one that does. The program has a mission: to handle long and technical copy. So you'd expect it to be more focused on text flow and structure than art. Yet the design facilities it has are surprising. The freehand line tool, especially, is as slick as it is unique: many an *XPress* user would love to kidnap it and turn it into an XTension. The one big limitation with *FrameMaker* is that it can't manage large type point sizes: the maximum is 400pt, compared with *PageMaker's* 650pt. This is a severe limitation for design-heavy jobs such as advertising.

QuarkXPress is a very open package for designers, with all elements easy to pick up and move about. It enables you to shear and rotate graphics independently inside a picture frame – useful for correcting a tilted scan. The latest version also enables you to flip graphics across either axis. Typographers can have a lot of fun too, with *XPress's* facility to create stand-alone irregularly-shaped text boxes. And for those generating multifold publications such as brochures, this is the most flexible package available.

Design-wise, *ReadySetGo* is possibly closer to the art school graduate's idea of DTP than to the editorial production staffer's. *ReadySetGo* presents a classic arrangement of width-and-height guide blocks rather than the usual DTP column-width-only guides. Old-school print designers working on display ads or packaging might feel rather more at ease with this approach than with the rest of the products here, which are all publication-driven. But one big limitation, for many users, is the maximum font size of 327pt.

The newcomer, *VivaPress Pro*, really starts to threaten the old guard in the area of design. Although *VivaPress* looks like a simplified *XPress* it actually has one of the most valuable features in DTP design today: the ability to manipulate text and picture boxes with Bézier curves. The possibilities for this are endless: you can crop images to perfect curves without fiddling with multiple overlapping boxes; you can flow text through sweeping vectors rather than jagged steps... and so on. *VivaPress* also enables you to scale type up to 800pt, well beyond even *XPress's* 720pt. If you're more concerned with design than the editorial production of long documents, then *VivaPress Pro* has an awful lot to offer.

Design tools

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	**85%**
FrameMaker 4.0	**75%**
QuarkXPress 3.31	**85%**
ReadySetGo 6.03	**80%**
VivaPress Pro 1.5	**90%**

Colour support

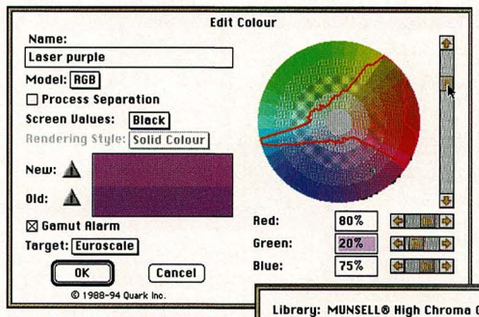
Mac DTP is not a mono affair, full stop. And these top packages can all run out colour separations without requiring an additional program, even with graphics on the page.

How the colour is applied varies slightly from program to program. It is very much at the fore of *PageMaker* and *XPress*. *FrameMaker* enables you to select and apply colours too, of course, but there's no floating colour palette. And *VivaPress* displays colour controls in anything but a colourful way, with them listed in dialogues and presented on the measurements palette.

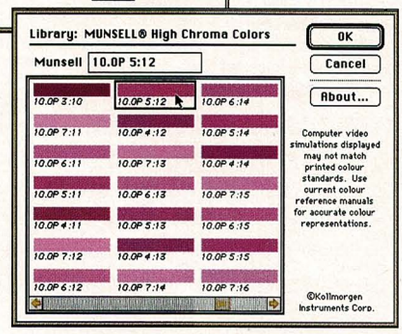
All the programs here enable you to use printed colour swatches to prevent you from using unprintable luminous colours only visible on-screen. *PageMaker* provides the biggest assortment of swatch libraries, including Pantone (spot, process, coated and uncoated), DIC, Focoltone, Munsell, Toyo and Trumatch. *FrameMaker*, surprisingly enough for what some buyers consider a black-and-white beauty, offers a respectable range: CMYK, RGB, HSB and Pantone. *XPress* isn't quite as wide-ranging as *PageMaker*, lacking the Munsell libraries, but it now has a handy 'gamut alarm' that indicates when an on-screen colour looks significantly different from what you can produce with inks on the page. *VivaPress Pro* comes with the same set of swatch libraries as *FrameMaker*, plus an assortment of HKS libraries.

ReadySetGo is slightly disappointing when it comes to applying colour, offering only the Pantone CV library in addition to CMYK, HSB and RGB. Also, for some reason, the program's designers have limited both the menu and the floating colour palette to eight colours (specified in the Preferences), plus one 'Other', which forces you to hunt through the Pantone library again. You can create gradient tint fills for picture boxes, rather like in earlier versions of *XPress* several years ago, but you have little real control over them other than angle and a choice between linear and circular fountains.

It's worth noting that *XPress* is still unique in providing a gradient fountain fill (or 'blend' tool). While the gradient can only be between two colours rather than several, and only applied in a small number of linear or non-liner patterns, it's fully rotational and easy to apply. Sometimes you can spot which pop magazines are laid out using *XPress* simply by looking at how often gradients are used.



One nice touch with *XPress* is the *CorelDraw*-style gamut alarm, which makes it plain what printed colours can and can't match what you actually see on screen.


Library: MUNSELL® High Chroma Colors
Munsell 10.0P 5:12
OK
Cancel
About...
Computer video simulations displayed may not match printed colour standards. Use current colour reference manuals for accurate colour representations.
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PageMaker comes with the largest number of look-up colour libraries, including a couple of unique Munsell offerings.

Colour support

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	85%
FrameMaker 4.0	70%
QuarkXPress 3.31	87%
ReadySetGo 6.03	73%
VivaPress Pro 1.5	80%

Structured documents

All the DTP packages on the market tend to be either very good or simply appalling at creating structured documents.

The structured features of *PageMaker* have always lent it to the creation of long documents. Using style sheets, you can name in the program which are the main headings, subheadings, sub-subheadings and so on. The styles not only sort out tabbing and indentation of these sections, but can also be used to produce a table of contents whenever you want. Once produced, the headings themselves are given a default style and are automatically entered into the style sheet list for customisation. As you work, random words can be added to an index list so that you can generate an index without having to tag every instance of a word manually.

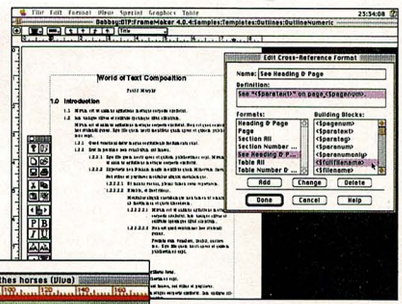
But these features pale into insignificance next to the structural mastery of *FrameMaker*: long, structured documents are what this package is all about. In addition to tables of contents and indices, the program also enables you to design tabular layouts via dialogue boxes. It's perfect for putting together complicated handbooks, with features including intelligent cross-references, flexible footnotes, variable text and number fields, and list updating. The book-building facility supports, not only *PageMaker*-style 'publications' but read-only hypertext documents (for instance, World Wide Web pages). And the fascinating equation editor will help you while away those wet Sunday afternoons. Perhaps.

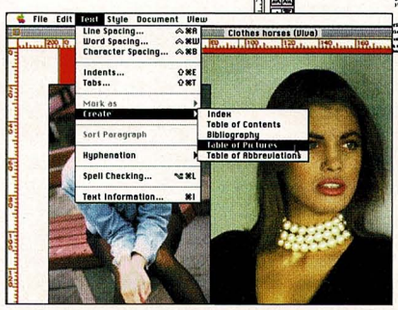
XPress has none of this. Okay, you can set up style sheets, automate page numbers and define sections, but that's all. The latest version adds some bells and whistles to the style sheet facility, such as the ability to pre-define the style of the *next* paragraph, but there is no support for automating tables of contents, indexes or even footnotes. If you produce long, organised publications for a living, don't give *XPress* a second thought *[but see the Pianzhang review on pages 46 and 47 – Ed]*.

VivaPress Pro does include basic commands for the generation of a table of contents and an index. Interestingly, it can also build a table of contents for the pictures you use, but the feature is at best a useful extra – it's not something you'd base your purchasing decision on.

Documents? Manuals? Technical reports? I don't think the typical user of *ReadySetGo* is going to be remotely interested in these. Just as well, because he won't find much help within the package even if he tried. This is design software, not high-end word processing.

When it comes to structured documents, *FrameMaker* has no parallel, letting you set up not only indices and footnotes but also cross-references.





Here's a nice idea for a *Quark*-alike product: *VivaPress Pro* can build a number of different types of Tables of Contents, including one for listing the pictures in a document.

Structured documents

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	80%
FrameMaker 4.0	95%
QuarkXPress 3.31	50% (for luck)
ReadySetGo 6.03	50% (for luck)
VivaPress Pro 1.5	70%

Automation

If we'd enjoyed fiddling with sticky galleys and getting our fingers burned on a wax roller, DTP may never have come about. DTP is about automation – saving time and, ideally, enhancing the quality of the results. Spelling checkers, style sheets, thesauruses and Find/Change dialogues are just the start.

Many of *PageMaker's* automated routines are accessible as Additions (see the 'XTensions versus Additions' box on page 49), which operate rather like macros of common commands. You can also get instant updates on the status of your Books and Links from the **File** menu. The program is usefully endowed with support for both Publish and Subscribe, under the **Editiors** menu, and OLE (Object Linking and Embedding).

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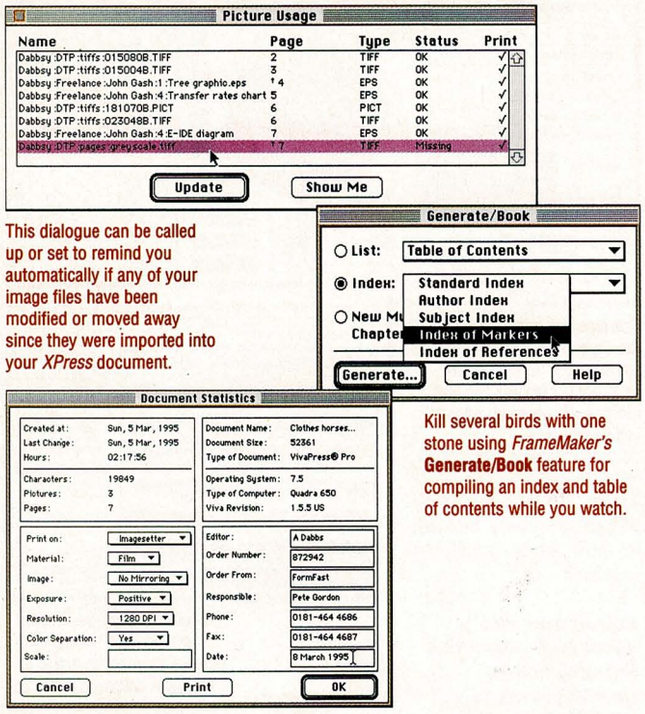
DTP ATE MY MAC!



This dialogue can be called up or set to remind you automatically if any of your image files have been modified or moved away since they were imported into your *XPress* document.

Kill several birds with one stone using *FrameMaker's* **Generate/Book** feature for compiling an index and table of contents while you watch.

In addition to its **Copy For Service** feature, *VivaPress Pro* can maintain basic job-bag type records to help you manage production flow.

FrameMaker is another Publish and Subscriber, but otherwise its automated features are simply those already described: contents, indices, tables, equations and other structuring tools. Some of these can be run simultaneously with a very powerful combining routine called **Generate/Book**.

For the complex work of producing documents with multiple sources of graphics, *XPress* and *VivaPress Pro* come up trumps. Both programs enable you to call up a list of images used in a document and to use this list to bring the relevant picture frame on-screen. *XPress* also enables you to update images that have been altered since being imported (the program can be set to prompt you of these occurrences every time the document is opened).

Undoubtedly the finest feature in this area is a command called **Collect For Output** in *XPress* and **Copy For Service** in *VivaPress Pro*. This command prompts you for a single folder location, whereupon it automatically searches out all the disparate image files linked to that document and copies them to that folder along with the document itself. *XPress* has the edge in that it also generates an exhaustive text file of technical data on font, colour, graphic and other program usage. It's impossible to describe how difficult this seemingly innocuous job is when you have to do it yourself, with the ever-present risk of you forgetting to include one of the graphic files when you send the job off to the filmsetters.

ReadySetGo provides a menu called **Annexes** that looks suspiciously like the start of a macro-like list of Plug-ins. The features you find there, though, are the kind you'd find in another package under **Special** or **Utilities**. **Annexes** includes commands such as **Character/Word Count**, **Auto Kern Specs** and **Save for Copyfit**. There is also a useful pair of **Fonts Used** and **Pictures Used** Anexes, but we could not get the latter to show the existence of any pictures in a document full of PICTs.

Automation

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	70%
FrameMaker 4.0	70%
QuarkXPress 3.31	85%
ReadySetGo 6.03	67%
VivaPress Pro 1.5	80%

PIANZHANG – A NEW FRONT-END TO XPRESS?

IT REALLY MEANS

Pianzhang means 'an automatic gearbox for *QuarkXpress*.' Unless you want to be literal about it, of course, in which case it means 'structure of an article'. So now you know.

QUARK KILLER?

Latest in the line of supposed *QuarkXPress* killers is *UniQorn* from SoftPress. Currently still in development for launch later this year, *UniQorn* takes full advantage of QuickDraw GX architecture and provides some uniquely clever features, such as automatic rearrangement of frames when you alter the page size.

QuarkXPress is arguably the top professional DTP package available to Mac owners. Its typographical controls are second to none. But for all the things that *XPress* does well, there are areas of weakness. *XPress* is superb for designing individual and varied pages, but it doesn't cater well for multi-page documents with uniform and predictable layouts, like books.

For example, if you're producing a scientific or technical volume with regular use of footnotes, and detailed tables of contents based on section headings and detailed headers and footers, *XPress* proves slow, unwieldy and very crude.

The fact is that *XPress* makes little or no concessions towards bulk, automated output. It has a fabulous range of controls, but they nearly all have to be applied manually, on a page-by-page basis. Not only that, the program has a steep learning curve, which makes it daunting for beginners to pick up.

This is why Miles 33 chose to develop *Pianzhang*. The easiest way to imagine it is as a new front-end to *XPress*, combined with the facility to lay out pages in a long document automatically, according to user-defined rules. (Miles 33, incidentally, describes *XPress* as being the front-end to *Pianzhang*. Pretentious? Mais non, c'est vrai!)

Pianzhang uses three main elements to produce its layouts:

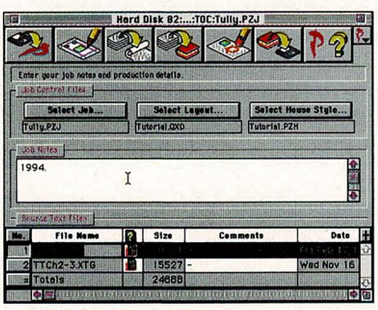
- Raw text files, specially prepared using House Styles…
- House Styles: *XPress* style sheets with knobs on. These include markers to extract text for headers and footnotes, to mark text for indices/tables of contents, and to mark where to start new pages or new Layouts…
- Layouts: special *XPress* files containing a number of different 'master' pages – one for each different layout to be used in your document.

How it works

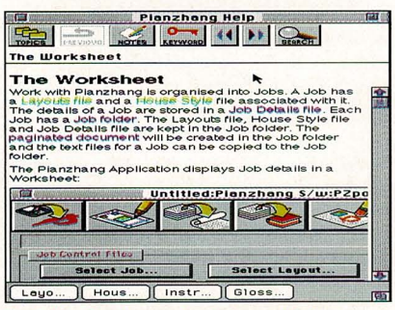
1. You create a Layouts file containing all the page layouts you're going to use anywhere in this particular document.
2. You add detailed instructions about where pages are to break, where pictures must be placed, and the other rules *Pianzhang* has to observe when it lays out your document.
3. You 'preview' a few sample spreads to make sure *Pianzhang* is doing what you want it to.
4. If it all looks okay at this stage, you get *Pianzhang* to paginate (lay out) the whole document.
5. You check the result, making modifications if necessary

Is it useful?

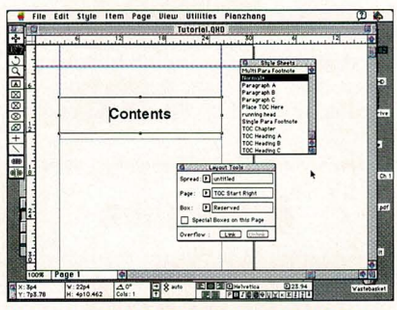
To anyone who knows *XPress* well, *Pianzhang* is very odd indeed. Setting up a document for automatic page layout is fearsomely complicated. It involves trusting the software to produce a good result based on the rules you give it to work on. If the result is bad, you modify the rules. This is a strange, one-step-removed way of working for people used



The *Pianzhang* front end. Yes, it worried me when I first saw it, too. But it does look quite nice.


Pianzhang Help
TOPICS
NOTES
KEYWORD
SEARCH
The Worksheet
The Worksheet
Work with Pianzhang is organised into Jobs. A Job has a Layouts file and a House Style file associated with it. The details of a Job are stored in a Job Details file. Each Job has a Job folder. The Layouts file, House Style file and Job Details file are kept in the Job folder. The paginated document will be created in the Job folder and the text files for a Job can be copied to the Job folder.
The Pianzhang Application displays Job details in a Worksheet:
Untitled:Pianzhang S/w:PZpc
Job Control Files
Select Job...
Select Layout...
Layo...
Hous...
Instr...
Gloss...

Here's the *Pianzhang* on-line help – and it does a pretty good job of explaining what's going on.



Here we are working in *XPress*, but with additional *Pianzhang* palettes. There are a number of these.

Interface

This area is inevitably highly subjective, but a good interface is one that makes a program easier to use, and this means better results, especially if you are just starting out.

PageMaker's approach of streaming text across columns has remained faithful to its origins. This is great for existing users, but it's looking increasingly awkward and unintuitive compared with the others. The fact that you can actually delete a column in the middle of a chain without the text reflowing seems bizarre to everyone except a *PageMaker* user.

There are a few other niggles with *PageMaker's* interface, such as the way in which you have to keep swapping between text and object tools if you want to move a text block you are editing. And when you define an area for new text by dragging out a marquee with the text tool, the marquee vanishes from sight as soon as you let go of the mouse – the area is defined but is completely invisible. Beginners have been seen to frantically drag the text tool over and over again, hoping to get some visual indication that the action has in fact succeeded. This isn't my idea of a responsive interface.

If you're of the opinion that *HyperCard 1.0* had a sophisticated interface, you'll probably find that *FrameMaker* is right up your street. While *PageMaker* shares some similarities with pre-version-5.0 releases of *FreeHand*, featuring clean-cut menus and floating windows, *FrameMaker's* interface is complex, and its couple of floating toolbars are terribly old-fashioned in style. Considering that you don't get fancy frills such as text rotation or colour gradients, the four-tier main toolbar looks unnecessarily complicated to the beginner. That said, such a stiff look is probably in line with usage: formal structured documents won't look any more inviting with a whizz-bang interface forced around them.

Although no one has ever really explained why the **Snap To Guides** command is under the **View** menu, *XPress's* interface is otherwise pretty well organised and self-explanatory. Those with regular sizes of monitor may also appreciate the relative compactness of the floating palettes and tool box. The one real limitation in *XPress* is that text and pictures always have to reside within a particular type of frame. This means you have to create the correct frame every time you want to add a new element to the page, which can get extremely annoying if you have a lot to do. That said, the logic is certainly consistent.

FrameMaker's main screen is complex, and its floating toolbars are old-fashioned in style.

ReadySetGo is a good program... for the right kind of user. But for a lot of DTP jobs, its interface is unsatisfactory. It is customary in most packages to build a colours palette by adding the specific colours you want one by one; *ReadySetGo* makes you go through this kind of repetitive process in order to build a fonts palette! You can't even select all the fonts on your System – you have to click on the font you want, click on **Add Font To Palette**, and continue like this for as long as it takes. And despite the existence of a **Text** menu, all the type commands (font, size, leading, etc) are hidden in a separate **Format** menu. Most irritating of all is that you

Continued on next page

to rolling up their sleeves and fixing layouts directly on the page.

It's also difficult to work out what sort of documents *Pianzhang* is best at. Magazine pages are too complex, individual and demanding for this approach. So what about books? The makers recommend it for laying out novels, but I'd take some convincing that it wasn't just as quick to do it manually.

That leaves us with manuals and technical documentation. *Pianzhang* has many features to make these easier – specifically its facilities to extract footnotes and headings, and to create automatic page headers/footers and tables of contents. *Pianzhang* will also create an index and cross-reference pages, but this will only work if you create your entire book as a single document – which is dodgy, because that requires a powerful Mac and gives you huge, unwieldy files.

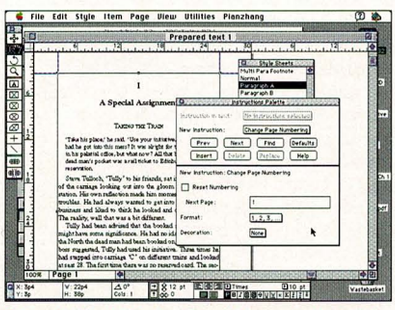
Does it do it well?

Pianzhang sets out to do some complex and difficult things, and it certainly achieves them. The range of controls and options is bewildering, and it integrates so thoroughly with *QuarkXPress* that you're not aware of using two pieces of software bolted together – the integration is much more polished than that.

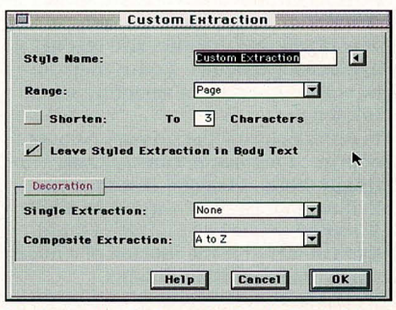
Polish is the operative word with *Pianzhang*. The packaging and documentation are neat and attractive, and the dialogues and overall interface superb.

But still a few things niggle. Like the fact that it needs 12Mb of RAM to work in. And the fact that the output files aren't normal *XPress* files – text doesn't run on between pages. And the fact that boxes aren't sized automatically to accommodate varying lengths of text. (The text's leading has to be 'fiddled' instead – a solution no true designer would ever contemplate). And the fact that despite the polish, and the huge range of features and the power at your control, there's no quick and easy way to get a grip on how to use it. It took me an age to get used to *Pianzhang* at a basic level, and I know *XPress* inside out.

And that's the real problem *Pianzhang* is really designed for people who can't face learning how to use *XPress* in its normal, 'manual' mode. The front-ends work in totally different ways, and once you've learned one, you'll probably find it hard to grasp the other. **ROD LAWTON**



This palette builds instructions into your text – in this case the instruction to start a new page.



Pianzhang will extract crossheads and other text to use in page headers and footnotes – excellent.

PIANZHANG

Price: £1,051.63 Out: now.
Requires: LC or better, 12Mb of free RAM (real or virtual), 14-inch greyscale monitor or better, and *QuarkXPress*.
For more details contact Miles 33 on 01344 861133.

FEATURES 82%
Huge range of options and features – but a bit more flexibility over layout 'bodges' would be useful.

EASE OF USE 45%
Tough to get your head around – might (conceivably) be easier for *XPress* novices.

DOCUMENTATION 79%
A valiant attempt at explaining a tricky application. Great on details but not on overviews.

VALUE FOR MONEY 48%
Much too much for an *XPress* add-on – and that's how people are going to see it.

MACFORMAT RATING 60%

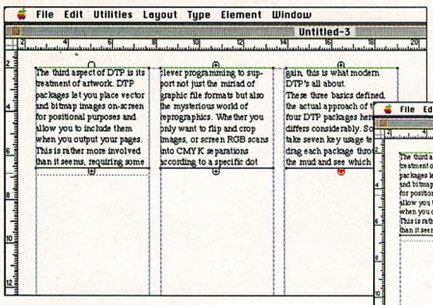
DINGBATS

Q. Which internationally respected design genius invented the DIN 16518 typeface classification, as well as some of the Western world's favourite fonts, including Optima and Palatino?
A. Herman Zapf. And you thought he was a Dingbat.

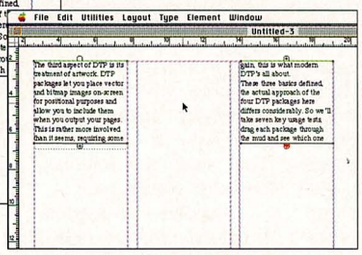
QUARK XPOSURE

QuarkXPress and *Adobe Photoshop* used to be the 'dream team' of Mac DTP. Now that *Photoshop* is looking cosy with Adobe's newly-acquired *PageMaker*, Quark has licensed technology from JVC to develop its own image manipulation package, called *QuarkXPosure*. See the News section in MACFORMAT 23 for more details.

DTP Ate My Mac!



Take three linked *PageMaker* columns, resize their height and the text reflows...



... but delete one of the columns, and oh... it seems that middle bit of text has gone forever. Aaargh! Quick, Undo it!

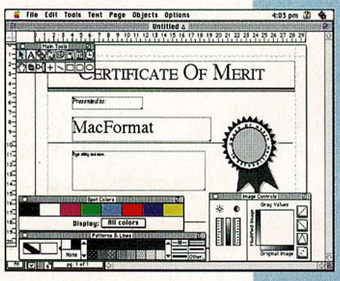
have to wait for a complete screen redraw before you click on a new tool, otherwise the program will ignore you. And changing tools is something you'll be doing often, as there are totally separate tools for moving, text editing and picture editing.

VivaPress Pro uses 'frames' like other DTP programs, but it uses them in a different way: you create a frame and only then define whether it should contain a graphic or some text. There are some parallels with *FrameMaker* here, but the overall look of the program shouts 'Quark!' And despite some pleasant cosmetic touches, it doesn't really stand up to *XPress* in the field of pinpoint accuracy and customisation – all the dialogue boxes seem so much thinner in content. There is also a lost opportunity with the use of colour. In *XPress* you can colour a frame by dragging the appropriate colour from a palette; in *VivaPress Pro* you can only see the colour names in a pop-up list in the main object palette.

Interface

Adobe PageMaker 5.0a	75%
FrameMaker 4.0	70%
QuarkXPress 3.31	80%
ReadySetGo 6.03	75%
VivaPress Pro 1.5	75%

Home Publisher – A Tribute



Home Publisher proudly wears the MacFormat rosette of honour after receiving 92% in issue 16.

If your publishing requirements don't justify spending several hundred quid on a professional DTP program, there was until recently a sub-£70 alternative. It was called *Home Publisher* – which says everything about the target audience. It was produced by Aldus, the company behind *PageMaker*, but because of the 'restructuring' taking place as a result of Aldus's merger with Adobe you can't buy it new at the moment. However, you may see it secondhand, and Adobe is promising to release a new version in the near future.

Home Publisher does not support process colour separations, but will separate up to eight spot colours. It will also print in colour on a suitable printer – such as a colour inkjet (see MacFormat 23). Image manipulation is, of course, less sophisticated than with expensive DTP programs. Leading and kerning aren't handled too well either, but it's not a problem to sort things out manually.

On the plus side, *Home Publisher* is very easy to use. There's even an Autocreate function, consisting of easily adaptable templates for page layouts. Someone who's never done layout before could easily create a newsletter on this – it's excellent for the non-professional. *Home Publisher* was reviewed in MacFormat 16, and scored 92%. We'll bring you full details of its new incarnation when Adobe releases it.

Mac and PC DTP

Even though you can pass documents between the Mac and PC versions of both *QuarkXPress* and *PageMaker*, the subtle differences between Mac and PC fonts can lead to reflowing problems. One way around this is to standardise: use one set of TrueType fonts on one platform and use a shareware font converter to produce identical versions for the other.

PostScript Born

In 1982, two Rank Xerox brains, Chuck Genschke and John Warwok, invented PostScript, a device- and resolution-independent way of describing the nature and position of graphic images in software and then printing them out on a wide range of devices from laser printers to filmsetters. Chuck and John later went on to form Adobe.

Those DTP Terms in Full

Air: lots of empty space on a page, intentional or otherwise. A text or graphic object surrounded by too much air is said to be 'floating'.
Baseline: an invisible line on which bases of capital letters rest.
Bleed: a portion of a printed image which extends beyond the trimmed edge of a page.
Colour separation: colours on a page are made up of various proportions of the basic colours Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black. Separation means splitting a colour page into its individual colour elements in positive or negative form, with each 'sep' used by the printer for one particular ink.
Crop: to hide or eliminate portions of a picture.
Crop/trim marks: marks for indicating the edge of the printed page.
Duotone: a two-colour halftone reproduced from a single-colour photograph.
Em: a traditional printer's measurement, equivalent to the width of a lower-case 'm' in a typeface at a given point size.
En: another printer's measure, the width of an 'n'.
Folio: printers' term for a page number .
Gutter: the blank space or inner margin between the type area and the binding or fold, or between text columns.
Hairline: an ultra-fine rule (line) or keyline (box frame), often set at 0.25pt.
Halftone: a continuous tone picture (such as a photograph) converted into square dots of various sizes by a process called 'screening'.
Kerning out/in: adding or subtracting space between two text characters. Group kerning across several characters is often called 'tracking'.
Leading: the vertical distance between baselines, measured in 'points'.
OLE: Object Linking and Embedding – a feature that enables graphics, soundtracks, text etc to be embedded within a document, and linked together.
Point: a traditional printer's measurement used to indicate type size, leading, depth, and rule thickness. One point is normally one-72nd of an inch.
PostScript: now the standard 'page description language' – basically, a way of plotting graphics and text as mathematical points, so that they can be scaled up or down smoothly when printed out.
Process colours: the primary colours of printed pigments, namely Cyan (bright blue), Magenta (dark pink), Yellow and Black, or CMYK for short. Screened overprinted mixes of these four colours give the illusion of a huge range of intermediate colours.
Register: the alignment of colour separations when printing, guided by 'registration marks' outside the trim area of the page.
Resolution: the density of dots per inch (dpi) produced by an output device, with a direct correlation to quality of results. Low-end laser printers offer 300dpi, while filmsetters can run at 1,270dpi and higher.
Screen: originally the mask placed over a continuous tone picture to convert it into dots. Now it just refers to the density of those halftone dots in 'lines per inch' (lpi). Newspapers often use a screen of 90lpi, while glossy magazines might use 150lpi up to 200lpi.
Spot colour: a colour made up of a single specially-mixed ink, not made by overprinting process colour screen (although spot colours can themselves be screened to give tonal differences). The industry standard is defined by Pantone spot colour libraries.
Trapping: the printing of one colour over another. Usually refers specifically to the slight overlap between two butting colours to minimise the risk of leaving a white space between them due to errors in print register. An expansion of a background colour is called a 'choke'; an expansion over a background colour by a foreground object is a 'spread'.
Widow: a single word in a line by itself at the end of a paragraph.

TYPOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

In the pioneering Mac and PC days of the early 1980s, the number of typefaces you could print out was strictly limited to those supported by your printer. Of course, the Mac had an advantage over DOS in being able to represent these characters on-screen before you printed them.

So was born the irritating demarcation between screen fonts and printer fonts. When Adobe started digitising classic typefaces into PostScript Type 1 format, it had to adhere to this demarcation in order to support the Mac formats of the time. Thus Type 1 screen fonts were – and are – made up of bitmap character representations in a small number of different point sizes, while the printer fonts contained all the precise vector information for smooth font edges at any size. When it became apparent that chunky screen fonts were no good for DTP and design, Adobe introduced *Adobe Type Manager* to improve on-screen font rendering.

Type 1 fonts are usually regarded as the definitive font technology for DTP. In general, they are of high quality and are the most reliable kind of font to send to a PostScript output device. The downside is that you have to muck about with loose screen and printer font files. Before Apple introduced the Fonts folder with System 7.1, all these files would litter your Extensions Folder and turn your tidy little System file into a multimegabyte lard-arse.

This might explain why Apple and Microsoft got together (for once) to create TrueType, a platform-independent technology that put all bitmap and vector information for a font in a single file. TrueType fonts act like Type 1s in just about every aspect – most programs treat the different font types as equals. Be cautious when you buy TrueType: very low-priced fonts often turn out to be dodgy conversions from Type 1s, and cheapo font packs produce cheapo results, especially at smaller point sizes.

New onto the market are Adobe's MultipleMaster fonts and Apple's QuickDraw GX, arguably both the saviours of DTP and the spanners in its works. MultipleMaster fonts can be squashed, stretched, and filled to a degree beyond other font technologies. QuickDraw GX (with WorldScript) will enable you to play with right-to-left and vertical font paths, and untold other options. GX versions of TrueType and ATM are ready to turn DTP on its head.

So what's best? If you're a designer, go for what you need. If you're a realist, go for what you think you can output at the end the day.

XTensions versus Additions

If there's one thing that puts *QuarkXPress* and *Adobe PageMaker* streets ahead of everything else in DTP functionality, it's their proprietary plug-in technologies. Be warned, though, that Quark's XTensions and Aldus's Additions are not interchangable and do not necessarily serve the same kind of purpose within their respective programs.

Quark XTensions are add-ins that reach deep into the program code, providing additional menu-accessible features or enhanced overall functionality. When Quark first made its XTension developers kit available to third parties, it hoped that they would provide for a range of niches with specific needs, but you have to wonder whether the company foresaw the explosion of XTensions to appear in just a few years. At the moment there are well over 200.

Examples include DataStream's £270 *SXetch Pad,* which adds Bézier drawing tools (and can also be used to bind text); MC Research's £265 *LinkUp*, which provides reliable database import for large listings-type documents; and the multifaceted *Kitchen Sink*, a productivity enhancement pack from ALAP costing £93.

There are also many low-cost but highly functional XTensions available. Three of the best are *Markzware Calendar* (freeware; to get a copy, e-mail **markzware@applelink.apple.com** or fax: 001-714-241-3874), the almost indispensable *Bobzilla* (freeware from Quark), and the occasionally essential tab-automator *ProTabsXT* ($30 shareware from Software XTensions).

Version 3.3 of *QuarkXPress* comes supplied with a small number of XTensions in addition to its import/export filters, including *Cool Blends* (for non-linear colour gradients) and *EfiColor* (for screen colour correction and CMYK separation of RGB images). Note that some early users of version 3.3 had teething trouble with *EfiColor*, which caused irregular crashes when you chose the File menu's Get Picture command. This is one of the problems cleaned up by Quark with its free *XPress 3.31* updater/patcher, which is sent to all registered users. If you haven't got yours yet, it can be downloaded immediately from either CIX (Quark conference) or CompuServe (GO DTPFORUM).

Additionally...

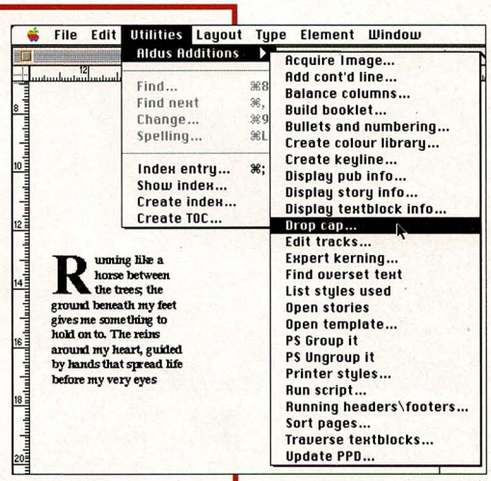
Adobe Additions don't reach quite as far into the host code as Quark's XTensions, mostly because Adobe (actually Aldus, until the recent takeover) always refused anyone access beyond the surface. As a result, third-party Additions were often little more than command macros which added to the 25 already supplied with the program, which themselves are little more than menu shortcuts. This isn't to demean their usefulness, though. The supplied Additions include such items as *Expert Kerning* (applies *PageMaker's* excellent kerning adjustment across all Type 1 font character pairs in a selection), *Build Booklet* (rearranges a document for multi-page spreads) and the deceptively small but incredibly handy *Add Cont'd Line* (creates 'Continued from...' or 'Continued on...' lines in exactly the right place).

However, the success of XTensions has forced Adobe into more meaningful relationships with third party developers, and a new wave of powerful Additions is emerging. For example, Second Glance Software's *Scantastic-ps* is a $99 tool that enables you to scan images directly into your *PageMaker* documents; Zephyr's *SmartAlign* makes object edge or centre alignment a snip at $89 (*XPress* has this built-in anyway); and even Adobe has got in on the act with its $79 *TrapMaker*, which brings *PageMaker* into line with *QuarkXPress'* built-in trapping facility. The fact that all prices are in dollars only indicates the relative newness of widely available Additions in the UK, but they're not that difficult to get hold of.

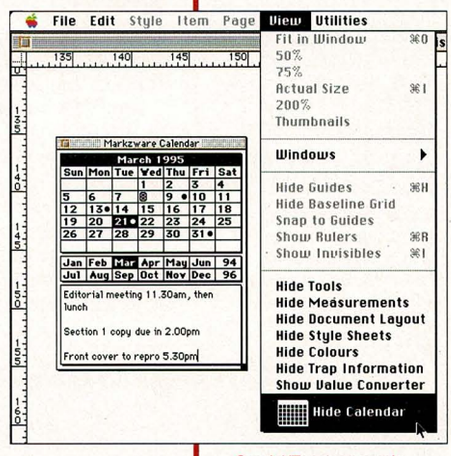
Now that Adobe owns *PageMaker*, expect Additions to evolve into something rather more exciting. The heart of photo-editing package *Photoshop* – and one reason for its enduring success – has been its use of Plug-ins as a way of customising and enhancing the product. It's hard to imagine Adobe not making this kind of direct approach possible in future releases of *PageMaker*.

It's worth mentioning that *VivaPress Pro* provides its own plug-in facility called Add-Ins. You get three Add-Ins with the package – two filters and a measurements palette – and the implication is that third parties will swarm to develop more, just as soon as *VivaPress* takes off in the market. The program has serious potential, so don't write it off as a mere pretender.

Nearly all Quark XTensions can be ordered in the UK via XChange International (0171 637 2966), with a few available directly from The Last Word (0171 736 7656). For information on sources of third party *PageMaker* Additions, call Adobe (0181 547 1900).



Aldus Additions tend to be a mixture of macros and shortcuts listed in a single ghetto under the Utilities menu.



Quark XTensions aren't lumped into one submenu, but can enhance existing dialogue boxes, add program functionality or just give you a handy utility like Markzware's freeware notepad calendar.

Continued on next page

The bottom line...

WHO'S THAT MAN?
Q. Aldus' logo is a woodcut profile of a man. Who is it?
A. One of the founding fathers of modern printing, the Italian Aldus Manutius (1450-1515). He was famous for printing classic works and gave the world the notion of italic type. Of course, he also gave Aldus its name – and a nobler one it was than Adobe, which is a type of mud brick.

DTP users tend not to be floating voters. If you have a current favourite, you might not feel there's enough reason here to switch, and if you are about to make your first decision about which to buy, make sure you feel happy about sticking with it for years to come.

PageMaker defined DTP on the Mac and remains the de facto benchmark. It's an incredibly powerful package with some unbeatable features (not least in high-end typography), but it is held back from complete market domination by a vintage, even awkward, approach to getting text and graphics on a page. You often hear *PageMaker* being described as 'perfect for newsletters', a back-handed compliment if ever there was one.

PageMaker defined what DTP on the Mac was all about and in many ways it still sets the standard that all other DTP programs have to aspire to.

FrameMaker is a blinkered product – and this *is* a compliment. It has been designed for the layout of highly complex structured documents, and it meets this goal admirably. And you get a whole bank of useful extras, including reasonable colour support, on top. For its target market, it's very difficult to fault. But general purpose design software it certainly ain't.

For sheer power and range of features *QuarkXPress* now has to be the one to beat – except if you want structured books or anything similar...

If you're a graphic designer who shrinks at the thought of producing magazines, books and such multi-page works, *ReadySetGo* may be the product for you. Certainly, it has a popular and well-established user base (it was touch and go between it and *XPress* in the late '80s), and it employs a sensible block grid for modular rather than column-based layout. It lacks the flexibility of some of the other packages here, so if you were tempted to go on to produce a structured document or a poster with large display type, for example, you'd soon find out that you didn't have the power to do either without using additional programs.

VivaPress Pro is a stunning pretender to the DTP crown, providing some genuinely unique features in addition to its mostly copycat ones. Our only two real concerns were with application speed – each command is followed by a one or two second thumb-twiddling wait – and the language barrier. Its German origins are subtly exposed in the form of peculiar uses of English throughout the manual, and even in the program interface. But with the imminent introduction of *VivaPress Pro 2.0* for the PowerMac, which incidentally is said to be able to read *QuarkXPress* documents, the market will have to sit up and listen to whatever language Viva Software is speaking.

Each package has its own strengths, ideal for specific purposes, and one of them might be just right for you.

This leaves *QuarkXPress* – the UK magazine publishers' current favourite, and with good reason. Version 3.31's best new feature is the significant increase in screen redraw speed, even with several photographic images on the page. Its next best feature remains the XTensions facility, which turns a good product into a great product. It also provides some of the most comprehensive text and graphic file import filters you can find in a DTP package, plus well-conceived User and Reference manuals. The only black cloud on Quark's horizon is its continued insistence on crazy prices, including hefty charges for after-sales support avowedly designed to deter users from bothering Quark with phone calls!

So if you want a real heavyweight and don't mind paying for it, *QuarkXPress* is our choice – unless of course you want to produce the kinds of structured documents it's not so good at, like books with footnotes, indexes and cross-references. Each package has its own strengths, ideal for specific purposes, and one of them may be just right for you. It's horses for courses, and there's no substitute for a test ride – try the save-disabled versions on the CD and make your choice! **MF**

SECOND OPINION

Do you think we've been unfair to your favourite DTP package? Have we failed to mention your favourite function? Or do you just want to tell us why you chose yours over the others? Let us know what you think, and we'll print a range of opinions. Write to 'DTP dialogue', MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW, fax 01225 446019 or e-mail macformat@futurenet.co.uk.

ADOBE PAGEMAKER 5.0

Price: £815 list, £530 street.
Requires: LCII or better, System 6.0.7 or later, 3Mb free RAM, 6Mb hard disk space.
Contact: Adobe on 0181 547 1900

MACFORMAT RATING **86%**

FRAMEMAKER 4.0

Price: £815.
Requires: LC or better, System 6.0.7 or later, 5Mb free RAM, 17Mb hard disk space
Contact: Frame Technology 0181 606 4100

MACFORMAT RATING **73%**

QUARKXPRESS 3.31

Price: £1,050 (£700 street), PPC £1,169 (£800 street). Requires:LCII or better, System 6.0.5 or later, 3Mb of free RAM, 6Mb hard disk space.
Contact Computers Unlimited on 0181 200 8282

MACFORMAT RATING **88%**

READYSETGO 6.0.3

Price: £249 list, £150 street.
System requirements: LCII or better, System 6.0.5 or later, 2Mb of free RAM, 4.7Mb hard disk space.
Contact Letraset on 0171 928 7551

MACFORMAT RATING **67%**

VIVAPRESS PRO 1.5

Price: DM2,000 (about £950).
Requires:LC or better, System 7.0 or later, 5Mb of free Ram, 3Mb hard disk space.
Contact Viva (Germany) on 00 49 261 671950

MACFORMAT RATING **75%**

Meridian
Software Distribution

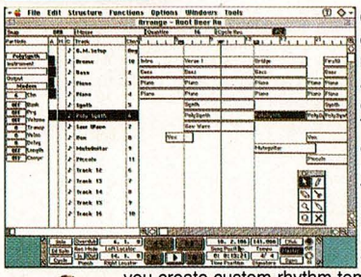
East House, East Road Industrial Estate, London SW19 1AH

DESKTOP MUSIC

CUBASE

AUTHORIZED DEALER

Steinberg



Cubase is Steinberg's open-ended concept designed to embrace today's important technologies and tomorrow's technological advance.Cubase offers a piano roll editor, list editor, custom drum editor, and notation editor. The arrange window takes the guesswork out of song construction. To cut a phrase in two, use the scissors - to join, use the glue tube ! The heart & soul of a song is the feel. Sequencers never had a reputation of capturing a musicians natural feel, but Cubase changes all that. With the "Groove Quantize" you create custom rhythm templates that let your music groove !

The range starts with Cubase Lite and goes all the way to Cubase Audio which adds multitrack direct-to-disk recording. All you need to get you going is a MIDI instrument, a MIDI interface like the Micro Mac MIDI Interface (pictured left) and any Mac, with System 7 and 4Mb of RAM, from an LC upwards.

Cubase Lite	£74.00
Cubase Music Starter Pac	£110.00
Includes Cubase Lite, Micro Mac MIDI Interface, on line MIDI help and tutorial, plus 10 demo songs.Cubase 2.5	£289.00
Cubase Score	£389.00
Cubase Audio	£634.00
Micro Mac Midi Interface	£41.00

EMAGIC

Micro Logic | Logic | Logic Audio

Micro Logic	£
Micro Logic XL	£110.00
Includes Micro Logic, Log 2 Mac MIDI Interface and demo songs	
Logic	£255.00
Logic Audio	£215.00
Log 2 Mac MIDI Interface (1 in, 3 out)	£

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Opcode Vision 2	£268.00
Studio Vision Pro	£612.00
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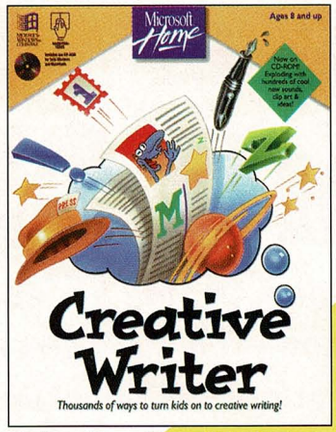
Easy Music Starter Kit	£153.00
Includes Musicshop , Band In A Box & Translator II MIDI Interface	
Musicshop	£115.00
Opcode Claire	£99.00
Opcode Overture	£344.00
Translator II Midi Interface	£53.00
Translator Pro Midi Interface	£99.00



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Applescript Book & Disk	£37.00*	Mac C Primer Vol 2	£24.95
Build Your Own Mac & Save	£17.95	Macintoshes For Dummies	£17.99
Complete Idiots Guide to Mac	£13.95	Photoshop 3 Bible Book & CD	£38.00*
Easy Macintosh	£18.49	More Macintoshes For Dummies	£17.99
How Macs Work	£22.95	Murphy's Laws of Macs	£11.99
Hypertalk 2.2 The Book	£32.50	PhotoShop Now & CD	£32.38*
Illustrator 5 Mac Quick Start	£17.95	Programmers Cookbook & Disk	£22.42*
Illustrator Book & CD	£40.95*	Quark Xpress Book	£29.99
Inside Macintosh Vol 3	£18.95	ResEdit Complete & Disk	£27.67*
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Mac 3D	£19.95	Using Quark Xpress 3.3	£36.99
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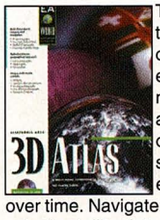

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The Claris Challenge

Can your Works package match the big boys when it comes to home DTP? Derek Smith shows you how you can create a professional-looking publication on a shoestring budget...

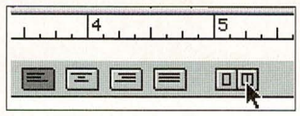
Have a go at DTP with the *ClarisWorks 3.0* demo on this month's CD

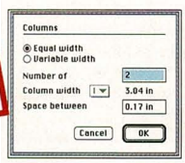
There's no point pretending that *ClarisWorks* has all the features of a dedicated DTP package. If you're creating professional publications, then you'll want one of the programs featured on pages 42-50. But if you want to do a little DTP and you can't afford to splash out the dosh, then you may be pleasantly surprised at just how powerful your Works package can be. For this tutorial we'll use *ClarisWorks 3*, but most of the techniques also apply to *Microsoft Works 4*.

COLUMNS

You may not realise that all word processing documents have columns because usually there's only one. *ClarisWorks* will happily display more. It's quite flexible at handling multiple columns, within the limitation that any columns you set will affect every page in the publication. To add columns, you can:

- Click on the **Add Column** button.
- Choose **Columns** from within the **Format** menu. This dialogue box also enables you to change column width and the space between the columns. The only limitation here is that the columns must fill the width of the page.

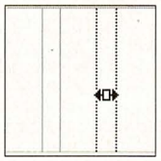




You can adjust columns manually by keeping the **[option]** key pressed down and then...

- Dragging on the edge of the column to adjust the amount of space between the columns (you may hear this space referred to as the gutter).
- Dragging in the space between the columns to enable you to change the column width.

To create more flexible column structures, see the 'Linking Frames' box on page 55.



MICROSOFT WORKS

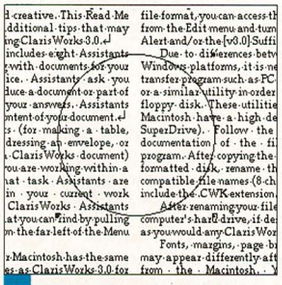
To create columns in *Microsoft Works*, choose **Columns** from the **Format** menu and click on the number you want. To change the width, drag the indent markers. *Microsoft Works* columns are not as flexible as those in *ClarisWorks*, though.

TEXT WRAPPING

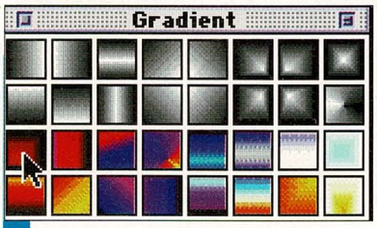
Text wrapping is one of the most fundamental features of DTP, and *ClarisWorks* can handle it quite well. It isn't very difficult to do either...

MICROSOFT WORKS

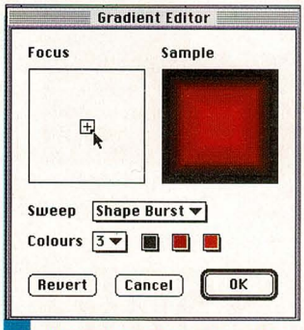
Wrapping text is very similar in both packages. Simply choose **Text Wrap** from the format menu and click on the type you want. The **Above and Below** option is not found in *ClarisWorks*.



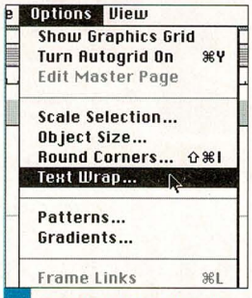
1 First of all, create your shape. For a circle, select the Ellipse tool, then draw while you hold down the **[shift]** key.



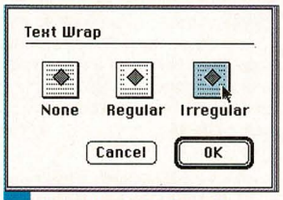
2 Double-click on one of the gradient patterns to bring up the Gradient Editor.



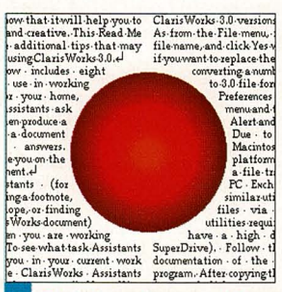
3 (Optional) To get the coloured circle shown above, lighten the colours' shades and centre the gradient effect.



4 Select **Text Wrap** from the **Options** Menu. You're then presented with a choice of three.



5 To get the text to follow the curve of the circle, click on **Irregular** and then **OK**.



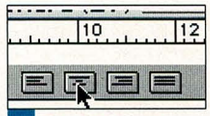
6 The text now flows around the circle you drew, following its edges closely.

TEXT FRAMES

To create a heading that breaks out of the column structure you've set up, you need to create a separate text frame. This can be any size or shape, although often (as here) it will be rectangular and run across the whole width of the page. Anyway, here's how to do it...

1 Select the Text tool, hold down **[option]** and draw a rectangle across both columns.

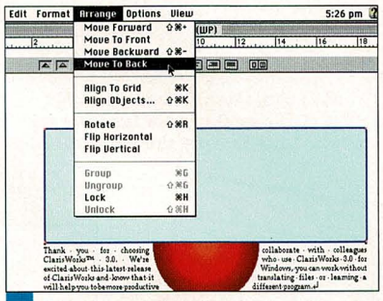
2 Type in your heading. You'll then need to alter the size, and perhaps the colour and other style settings, to give this sufficient impact.



3 Next, click on the **Align Centre** tool to make your heading go to the centre of the text frame.

4 Select **Text Wrap** from the **Options** menu, and this time, click on **Regular**.

5 All the body text now moves out of your heading's text box, so that your heading now shows clear at the top.



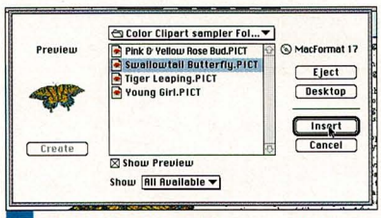
6 To make it stand out, draw a coloured box. This will overlay the text, so select **Move To Back** from the **Arrange** menu.

MICROSOFT WORKS

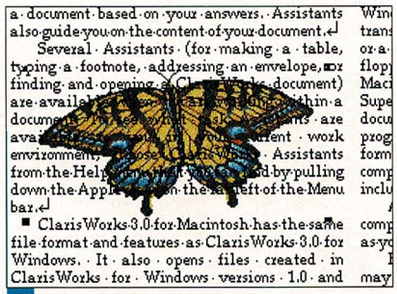
In *Microsoft Works* text frames are called story frames. They are always linked, unless you draw them with the **[option]** key held down.

IMPORTING

You'll probably want to incorporate graphics into your publication, and *ClarisWorks* is very flexible for this. It can import the major graphic formats such as PICT, TIFF and even QuickTime movies. Follow these steps...



1 Click the Pointer tool. This ensures that the item you import will not be treated as text (see the 'In Text Graphic' box) and can be moved around the page. Then select **Insert** from the **File** menu.



2 Position the graphic wherever you want it and select a regular text wrap.

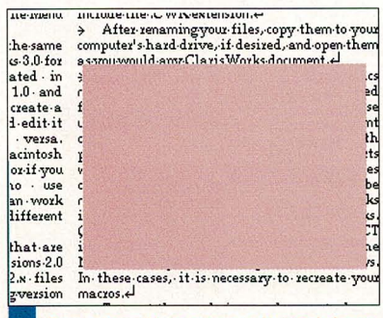
3 Create a text frame below it, type in a caption, then give that frame a regular text wrap.

MICROSOFT WORKS

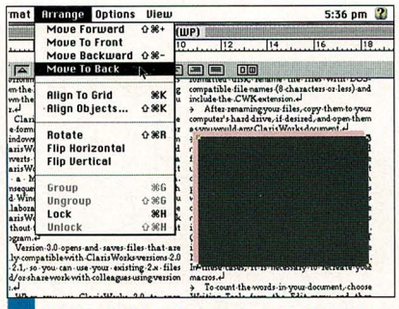
Choose **Picture** from the **Insert** menu to import EPS or PICT graphics. For TIFF images, you'll have to copy and paste.

SHADOW EFFECT

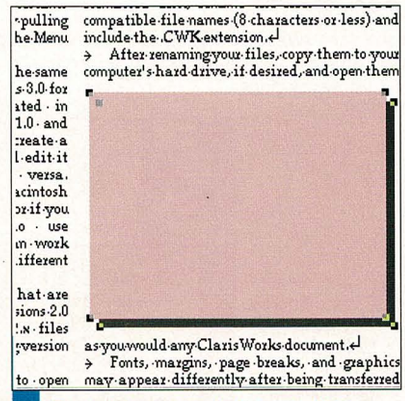
A simple way of adding interest to a box is to give it a shadow. Here's how...



1 Draw a box with an opaque colour and choose **Duplicate** from the **Edit** menu. A new box will appear, overlaying the old one and slightly offset.



2 Change the colour of the new box to a grey or black, then select **Move To Back** from the **Arrange** Menu.



3 Give both boxes a regular text wrap. When you've done that, create a text frame inside the first box and type in your text.

MICROSOFT WORKS

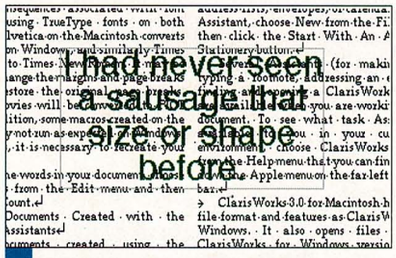
It is easy to create shadows in *Microsoft Works* using **Duplicate** from the **Edit** menu, then **Send to Back** from the **Format** menu.

CALL-OUT

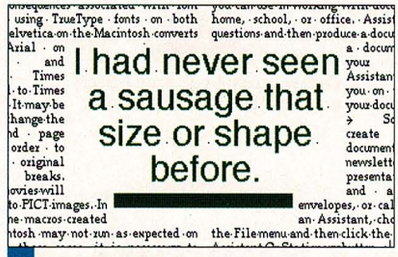
To attract the eye of your readers and help to get them reading, you'll need some call-outs or 'pull-quotes'. These are interesting snippets of the main text, like a joke or an inspiring phrase. Follow these instructions...

MICROSOFT WORKS

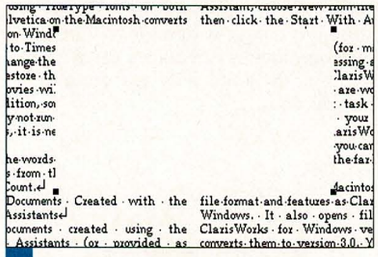
Follow exactly the same procedure as *ClarisWorks*, sending a white box to the back then wrapping the text around it.



1 Find the phrase you want to use, highlight it, then select **Copy**. Draw a new Text Frame and select **Paste**. Choose text size, style and alignment.



2 Draw a thick line under the text. You could select both items and choose Text Wrap, but this looks ugly (see above), so instead...



3 Draw a solid white box to cover both items. Choose **Send To Back** from the **Arrange** menu. Wrap text regularly around this white box.

STYLES

Consistency in a publication is important. If you use a particular font and size for a caption, you'll want to use the same style throughout your publication. To create your styles, choose **Define Styles** from the **Style** menu. This brings up a box. Type in the name of a style, such as 'body type' or 'headings', then select the fonts, size and style. Finally click on **Add**.

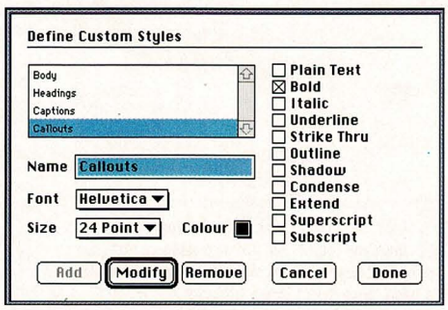
Do this for all the styles you're going to need in your publication. Your new style names now appear at the bottom of the **Style** menu. From now on, you can select these styles to change the font and size quickly, thus producing consistent results.

If you change your mind you can modify styles at any time by selecting **Define Styles** again. However – and this is important – if you modify a style it will not alter text already in that style. What this means is that you have to go back, highlight each bit of text individually, and select the style name again.

A dedicated DTP package (see pages 42-50) will automatically update all text that has been allocated that style. But that's one of the things that you pays yer money for.

MICROSOFT WORKS

ClarisWorks's styles may be limited but they are better than *Microsoft Works*'s – it doesn't have any! However, it can copy and paste formatting; *ClarisWorks* can't. One all.



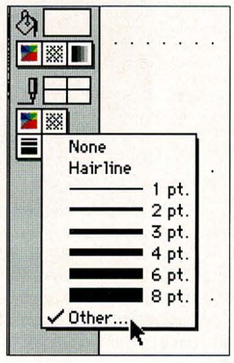
Creating a style sheet doesn't take long, and it'll help save you time and make your publication more consistent.

WHITE ON BLACK

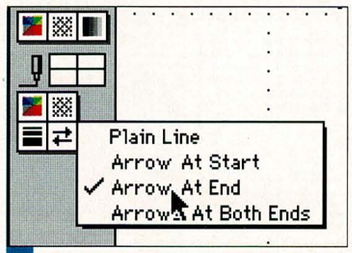
For body text, black writing on a white background is the most legible, but reversing this can make an eye catching item. Here's how to create that arrow at the bottom right of the page...

MICROSOFT WORKS

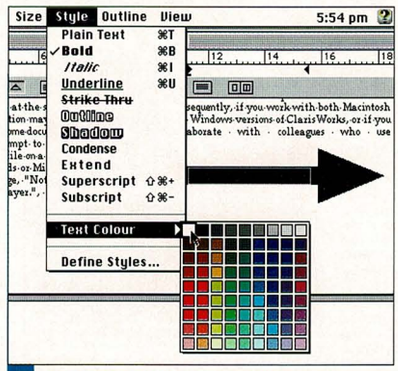
Changing colour in *Microsoft Works* is easy. Use **Font and Style** from the **Format** menu. Getting a thick line is difficult as *Microsoft Works* only offers a maximum of 10 point.



1 Select the line tool and draw a horizontal line by holding down **[shift]** while drawing. Make the line much thicker. In this case I'm using 18 point.



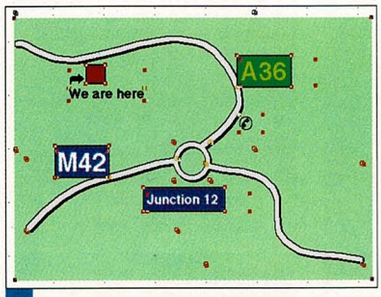
2 Click on the Arrow tool and select **Arrow At End**. Then create a text frame on top of the arrow and type in your text.



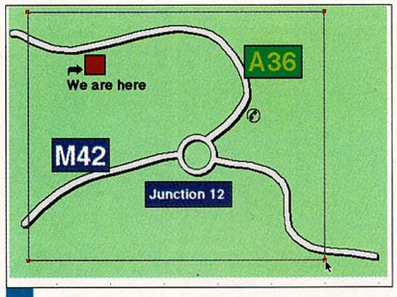
3 Choose **Select All** from the **Edit** menu to highlight the text you just wrote, then change its colour in the **Style** menu.

CROPPING

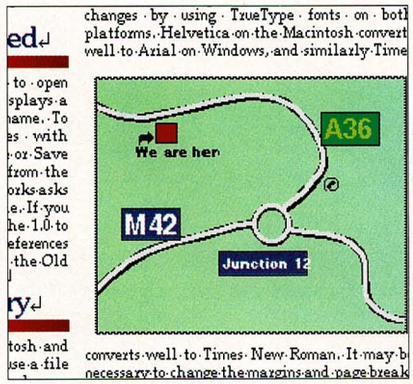
Sometimes you'll have a picture and want to show only part of it. This process is called cropping. Strictly speaking *ClarisWorks* can't do it. But you can get around this using Publish and Subscribe.



1 Open a new Draw document and create your graphic, or insert a picture that has already been drawn. Select the whole picture and choose **Create Publisher** from the **Publishing** sub-menu under the **Edit** menu. Select where you want to save the published document.



2 You'll now see a grey box around your picture. Resize this over just the portion of the picture that you want to use. After you're satisfied with this, save and close the document. In your publication, select **Subscribe To** from the **Publishing** sub-menu from the **Edit** menu.

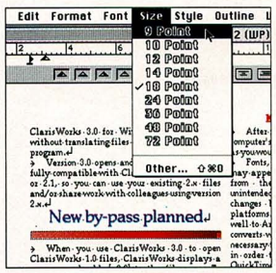

changes · by · using · TrueType · fonts · on · both
platforms, Helvetica on the Macintosh converts
well to Arial on Windows, and similarly Time
converts well to Times New Roman. It may b
necessary to change the margins and page breaks
We are her
A36
M42
Junction 12

3 Double-click on the publisher file you just created, *not* the original picture file. This can now be placed anywhere in your document. Should you want to change the cropping, open the original picture file, reshape the cropping box, and then save. The image will automatically update itself in your publication.

MICROSOFT WORKS

Selecting **Crop** from the **Tools** menu to crop paint images, but not draw-objects. There's no Publish and Subscribe here, and OLE is very awkward.

IN-TEXT GRAPHICS



Once a graphic is pasted into text, it is treated as a normal character. You can highlight it and change the point size to alter the size of the gap above it (known as leading).

So far, all the graphics and frames we've created have been free floating. That is, if we add or change the text, the graphic stays put. Sometimes you'll want the graphic to move with the text, such as in this case. To do this...

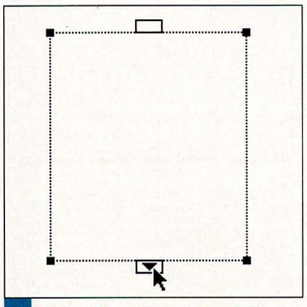
1. Draw a rectangle and fill it with a gradient. Choose **Cut** from the **Edit** menu.
2. Select the Text tool. Place the cursor where you want the graphic to appear.
3. Select **Paste**. The item you cut will appear – as if it were a large, odd shaped letter.
4. Here, the gap between the line above and the graphic is too large. With text, you'd reduce the point size. As the graphic has now become text, you do the same here.
5. With the text tool selected drag across the graphic so that it's selected. Reduce the point size from the **Size** menu.

MICROSOFT WORKS

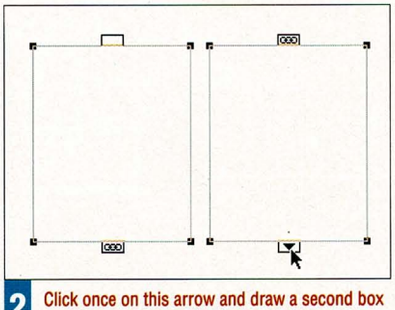
Microsoft Works uses in-text graphics in just same way as *ClarisWorks* does. You can paste them directly into text.

FRAME LINKING

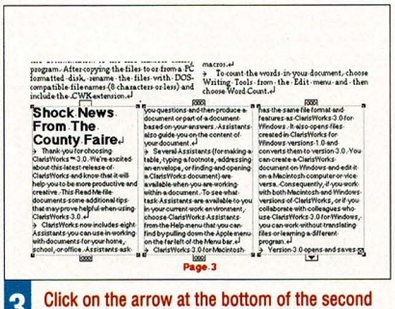
Frame linking is a powerful feature. It breaks free of the rigidity of document-wide columns that we have used so far, enabling you to create much more varied layouts. In this case I've used linking to change from a two-column layout to a three-column layout. You could use a linked frame to create an entire document. If so, you may be better off creating the whole thing in a Draw document. This is how do it...



1 Select **Frame Links** in the **Options** menu. Draw a Text frame. Hold down **[option]**; draw a box. Select the pointer tool. Click on the box you've drawn. It has a black arrow at the bottom.



2 Click once on this arrow and draw a second box – make sure that this is the same size – to the right of the first one. You'll notice this box has a black arrow on the bottom as well. In addition to this it has a chain at the top. The chain symbol shows that the new box is linked to the first box you drew.



3 Click on the arrow at the bottom of the second box and draw a third text frame. Now type or insert data into the first column and you'll find that it automatically flows to the second and third frames. These can be resized at will and the text will always automatically re-flow.

MICROSOFT WORKS

Frame linking is far better in *MicroSoft Works*. You can automatically create several columns of equal size across the page, rather than drawing them by guesswork as you do with *ClarisWorks*.

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Key: EM = Express Modem, GS = Greyscale, PM = Passive Matrix, Col = Colours, AM = Active Matrix, Thou = Thousands

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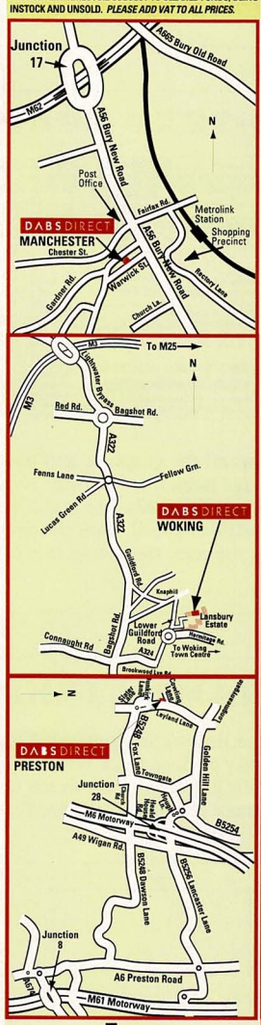

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Networks Work

Networks are great for sharing printers, transferring large files, and playing games, but there are many options open to you. John Lewis explains what advantages each has...

We sometimes forget the debt we owe to the early visionaries who designed the first Mac. Take Steve Jobs for one. He reasoned that computers would not always be used in isolation, so he insisted that all Macs had built-in networking support.

At that time this was almost heresy: to network you had to buy special cards and employ an expensive wizard who knew the right incantations. In fact, that is still the case today with PCs. But simple Mac networks involve no more than plugging a cable into the back of your machine.

The benefits can be enormous. Several Macs can share one printer, so you don't have to buy lots of printers. It becomes a doddle to transfer files too big to fit onto floppy disks, you can set up e-mail systems and, with System 7 or later, access files on other Macs and even run programs on someone else's hard disk. And that's not to mention networkable games.

Unfortunately, like everything to do with computing there's some jargon involved, so let's get that out of the way.

- **AppleTalk** is the protocol, or instructions, which your Mac uses to pass information around the network. All Macs and PostScript LaserWriters come with AppleTalk built in.
- **LocalTalk** is Apple's proprietary name for its networking system. It uses the printer port at the back of your Mac. It's relatively slow (230 kilobytes per second), but it's more than adequate for normal home and small office use where there isn't the need to transfer large amounts of data between computers.
- **PhoneNet** is Farallon's name for its cabling system which, along with a host of compatible clones, has all but totally taken over from LocalTalk. It works at a similar speed to LocalTalk, and also uses the printer port. In fact, it is often called LocalTalk in the same way vacuum cleaners are known as Hoovers. Its popularity stems from the fact that it's more flexible than LocalTalk, and because it uses standard telephone wire it's much cheaper too.
- **NeuNet** is produced by a UK company called Neutral and also uses the printer port. It differs from both LocalTalk and PhoneNet in that all the electronic gubbins are contained in a BT type wall socket instead of having a transceiver cluttering up your desk.
- **EtherNet** is a high end networking system that uses a special EtherNet port built into some high-end Macs, expensive printers, and all PowerMacs. However, it can be added to any Mac or printer.
- **Transceiver** is a box that plugs into the LocalTalk or EtherNet port at the back of your Mac, enabling you to connect it to your cabling system.

LocalTalk or EtherNet?

EtherNet is better than LocalTalk because it's faster, but, unsurprisingly, it's more expensive. Whether it's worth paying the extra depends on several things...

LocalTalk is cheap, costing around £20 for the transceiver and the cable needed for each device you add to the network. If your Mac has EtherNet built in, it'll cost between £40 and £70 for each Mac on the network. If you don't have EtherNet built in, you can buy a card (either PDS or NuBus) for all Macs from the LC upwards, for between £60 and £100. If you have an old Mac with no expansion slots, or all the expansion slots in your Mac are being used, you can buy a SCSI device to connect to an EtherNet network. But they are quite pricey at somewhere between £230 and £300.

The theoretical speed of EtherTalk is 10Mb per second – over 40 times faster than LocalTalk, but in practice you'll be lucky to achieve much more than a five times speed advantage using real data over a real network.

Another thing to bear in

Continued on next page

Because this Mac doesn't have EtherNet, I'm adding a thin EtherNet NuBus card which, like most cards, has the transceiver built in.

SIMPLE NETWORK

If you want to connect two Macs together to copy a large file or play a network game, you can plug a standard printer cable from one printer port to the other. Hey presto! A mini network.

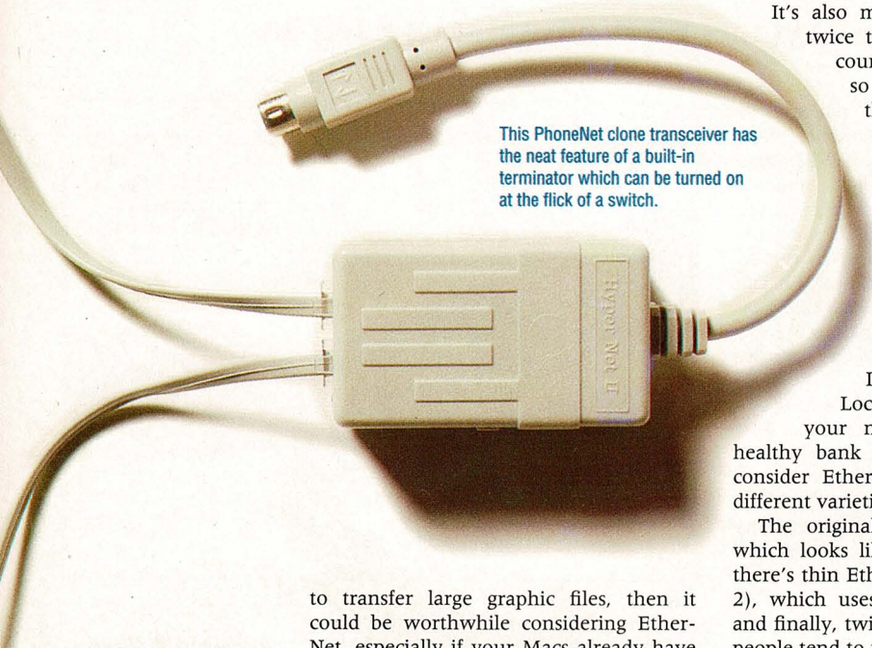
This Sonic transceiver from Performance Direct enables Macs that already have built-in EtherNet to connect to a network.

Thin EtherNet transceivers connect to a backbone cable via a T piece. Many transceivers also have a socket for twisted pair cables (see page 58).

LAN
LAN – local area network – is a small network of computers physically connected together, rather than using modems.

mind is ease of installation. LocalTalk is a doddle to use as it's just plug and play. EtherNet networks tend to be a little more involved and may require the use of a screwdriver.

For most people LocalTalk will be more than adequate, but if you need to transfer large amounts of data between Macs, or you use a shared database, or often need to transfer large graphic files, then it could be worthwhile considering EtherNet, especially if your Macs already have it built in. For smaller documents though, like word processing files, LocalTalk is more than adequate.



This PhoneNet clone transceiver has the neat feature of a built-in terminator which can be turned on at the flick of a switch.

PDS AND NUBUS
PDS (processor direct slot) slots are found in most Macs. They are internal slots that can take a wide variety of add-in cards.
NuBus slots are found in larger Macs. They are internal slots that enable you to use an even wider range of plug-in cards.

Which LocalTalk?

If you've decided you want to keep your network simple and go for LocalTalk, your next decision is whether to go for PhoneNet, NeuNet or Apple's LocalTalk.

Apple's LocalTalk tends to be more expensive and offers no advantage over the others. PhoneNet is far more popular, partly because of its ease of use and flexibility, but mostly because it's the cheapest option, at around £15-£20 for each Mac or printer on the network. The original PhoneNet is produced by Farallon, but there are many compatible clones available that have driven the price down.

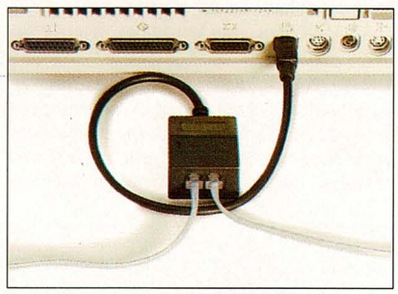
NeuNet is more elegant than the others: rather than having a transceiver hanging out the back of your Mac, NeuNet is built into a wall socket. However, this does mean that instead of the plug and play of PhoneNet, you'll need a screwdriver and wire strippers to install it. It's also more expensive at around twice the price of PhoneNet. Of course, it's a British product, so it'll appeal to you if you're the sort of person who pays extra to buy British.

If you're unsure which system to buy, my advice would be to go for PhoneNet: it's cheap and it's the standard most other people have.

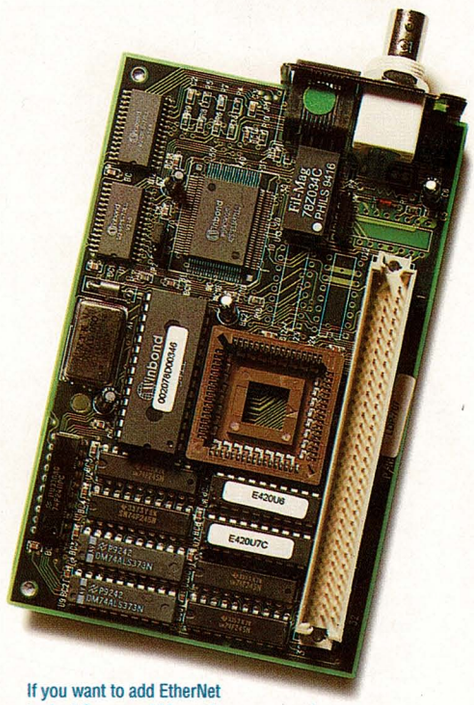
Which EtherNet?

If you've decided that LocalTalk just isn't enough for your needs and you've got a healthy bank balance, then you could consider EtherNet. But there are three different varieties of cable to choose from.

The original type is thick EtherNet, which looks like TV coaxial cable; then there's thin EtherNet (also called 10Base-2), which uses a thinner coaxial cable; and finally, twisted pair (10Base-T). Most people tend to use the thin or twisted pair options simply because they're easier to handle and install.



PhoneNet is the most popular form of cheap networking. Plug this transceiver into the printer port, and add more devices by daisy chaining.

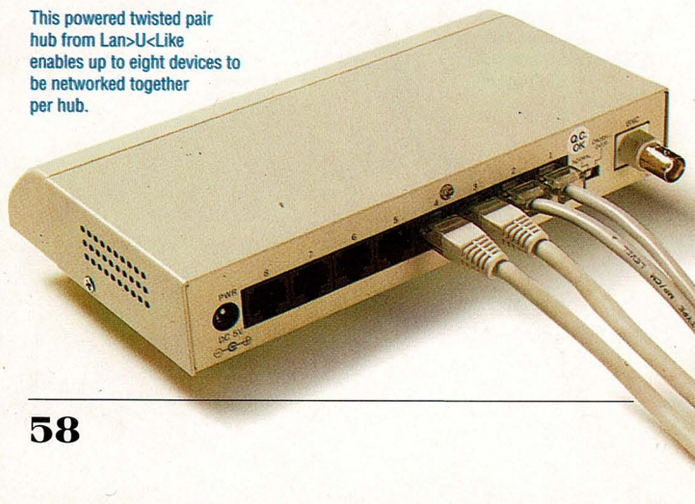


If you want to add EtherNet to the LC range of Macs, then you can plug a PDS card like this one into your Mac yourself.

If you're using thin EtherNet then you can set up a bus network, which for all intents and purposes works the same as a daisy chain – even though, strictly speaking, it isn't one. Twisted pair EtherNet was originally designed for use in a Star topology, but Farallon has now introduced its EtherWave range of products that enables a small number of Macs and printers to use a simple daisy chain twisted pair network. (If you are totally confused, see the diagrams on page 59 – they explain the various 'topologies' possible.)

If you're unsure which to go for, my advice is twisted pair as it's the easiest and most flexible.

Much further down the road, a whole new concept in networking is being designed. Named FireWire, it will be a standard connection for networking and peripherals. For more details see the news story on page 17 of MACFORMAT 21.



This powered twisted pair hub from Lan>U<Like enables up to eight devices to be networked together per hub.

If you want to add EtherNet to your Mac or printer but don't have any available slots, you can connect via the SCSI port.

MAKING THE CONNECTION

The final question you need to ask is which 'topology' is best for you. Topology is the physical layout of your network. Here we list the three major topologies, although you may want to talk to a networking specialist for detailed advice.

A fourth option is the Ring topology. The major exponent of this is the Token ring. As a general rule though, LocalTalk, Thin and Twisted pair EtherNet should not have their ends joined to form a ring. However, Ring topologies are not very popular in the Mac world, and unless you know you need one, you don't.

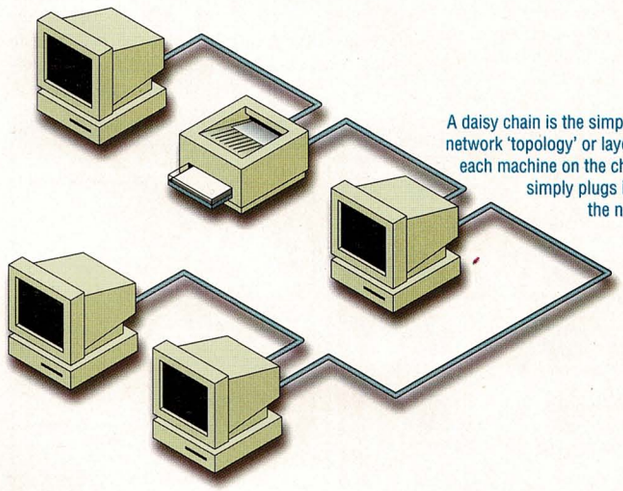
DAISY CHAIN

For LocalTalk and twisted pair EtherNet. Each Mac has a transceiver plugged into the back; the transceiver has two sockets: one for the cable that links your Mac and the previous machine, and one to link your Mac to the next machine in the chain.

This is the usual method used for all the different sorts of LocalTalk, although the new EtherWave range from Farallon enables you to use it for twisted pair EtherNet.

Daisy chain is the easiest and quickest topology. The only thing to worry about is that if you're using PhoneNet you may need to plug a terminator into the transceiver at each end of the chain, and if you're using NeuNet sockets, you'll need to flick a little switch to end. This is similar to using terminators on a SCSI daisy chain. (See our guide to solving SCSI problems in MACFORMAT 19.)

The drawback of this topology is that if there's a break in the cabling, the entire network stops functioning. However, this is rare and very easy to fix, so if you only want a small network, this is the topology to go for.



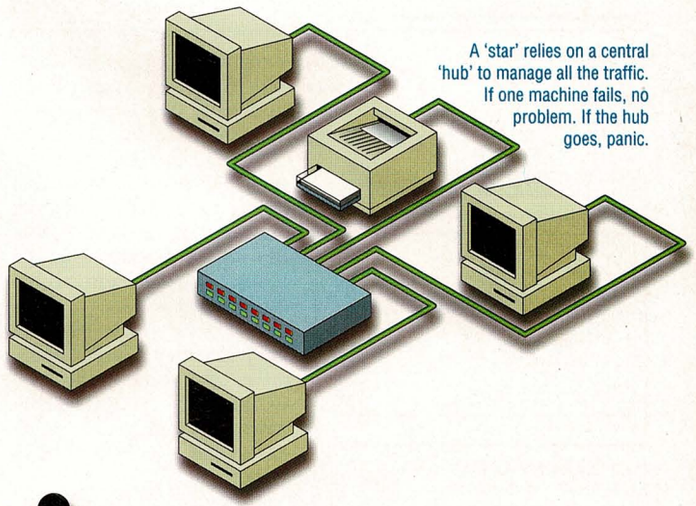
A daisy chain is the simplest network 'topology' or layout: each machine on the chain simply plugs into the next.

STAR

For LocalTalk and twisted pair EtherNet. Just as in a phone system, all the cables are taken back to a central point called a hub where they're connected together. The hub can be unpowered (passive) or powered to amplify the signals before they are re-transmitted to the other parts of the system. Both LocalTalk and twisted pair EtherNet can be used in this configuration, and if you start with LocalTalk, it is easy to upgrade at a later stage to twisted pair.

For large networks, the Star topology is preferable: it enables the system to be reconfigured to cope with staff changing location or department. One of the main advantages is the fault tolerance of this layout. If a cable becomes damaged it will only affect the machine that is connected to the hub using that cable, leaving the rest of the network functioning normally. But of course, if the hub breaks, you lose the whole network.

Hubs normally have a spare socket built into them which enables you to connect them together. This effectively gives you an unlimited size of network, with as many hubs as you like.



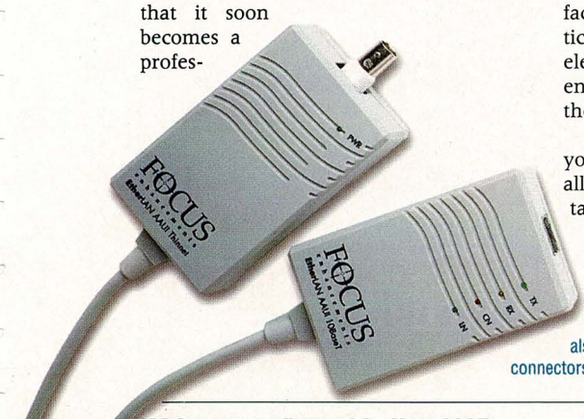
A 'star' relies on a central 'hub' to manage all the traffic. If one machine fails, no problem. If the hub goes, panic.

BACKBONE (AKA TRUNK OR BUS)

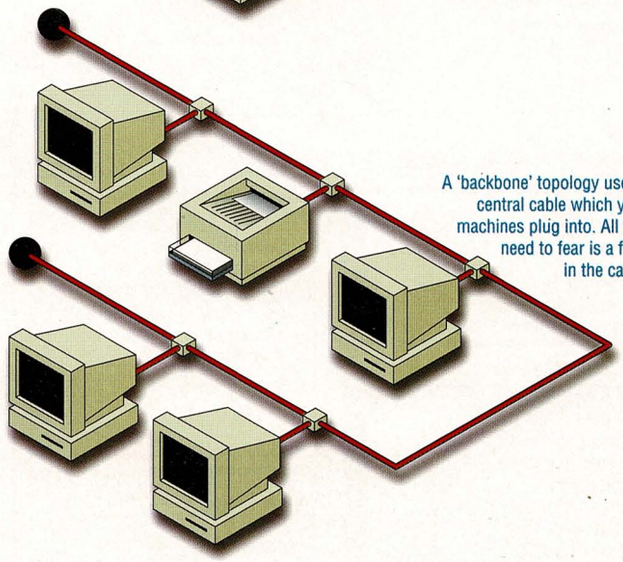
For LocalTalk, thin and thick EtherNet. Essentially a single cable that enables the various computers and printers to tap into it at various points along its line. Often, this involves wall sockets and this means that it soon becomes a professional job as the cable should be installed in trunking.

However, by plugging thin EtherNet cables from one transceiver to the next, it is as easy to set up as a daisy chain. In fact, it looks and works in an almost identical fashion to a daisy chain and only an electrician would appreciate the difference. If there is a break in the backbone, the whole network fails.

Note that by using the Neutral sockets you achieve a pseudo backbone because all the transceiver electronics are contained within the individual sockets.



These Focus transceivers connect your Mac to twisted pair or thin EtherNet. You can also buy transceivers with both connectors built into the same unit..



A 'backbone' topology uses a central cable which your machines plug into. All you need to fear is a fault in the cable.

Continued on next page

NOW WHAT?

Once you've bought all your cables and plugged everything in, you'll need to know a few things to use your network. Prior to System 7 you had to buy some special software if you wanted to transfer files from one Mac to another. With System 7 though, everything you need is built in. You can share folders or whole hard disks with the other Macs on the network. Transferring files is easy – just drop them into a shared folder.

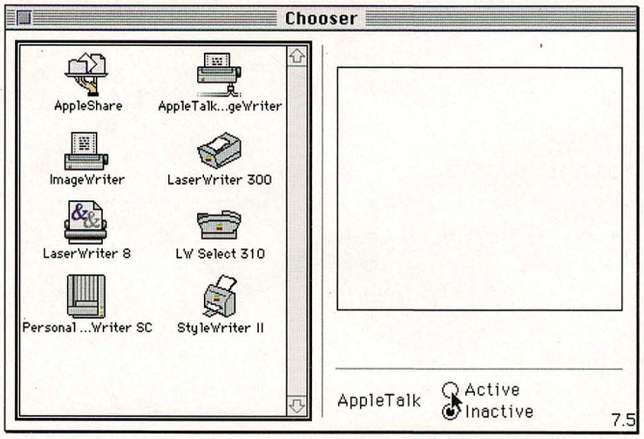


Fig 1. To bring up this window, select **Chooser** from the **Apple** menu.

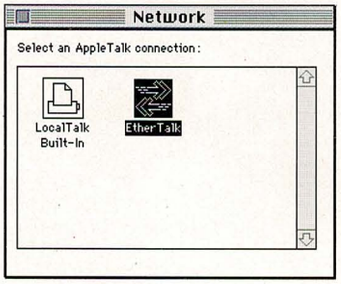


Fig 2. The **Network** Control Panel enables you to select an EtherNet network.

If your network still has some people on System 6 and others on System 7, do not despair. The System 7 Mac can publish a folder that the System 6 people can access, using AppleShare, which comes with their System. They can then transfer documents into or out of this folder. The days of SneakerNet where you had to carry your disks from one Macintosh to another are now over.

Although we have said that all Macs come with AppleTalk built in, you do need to turn it on. It's simple to do – just select **Chooser** from the **Apple** menu and click on the **Active** button (see Fig 1). Next time you start up, AppleTalk will be active.

If you're using EtherNet, you'll have to inform your Mac. Open the **Network** Control Panel from the **Control Panels** under the **Apple** menu, and click on the EtherTalk icon (see Fig 2).

The simplest task now is to use a printer. From the Chooser window, click on the icon that represents the type of printer you want to connect to, and a list of available printers will appear in the box to the right. Click on the desired printer and that's where you'll print next time (see Fig 3).

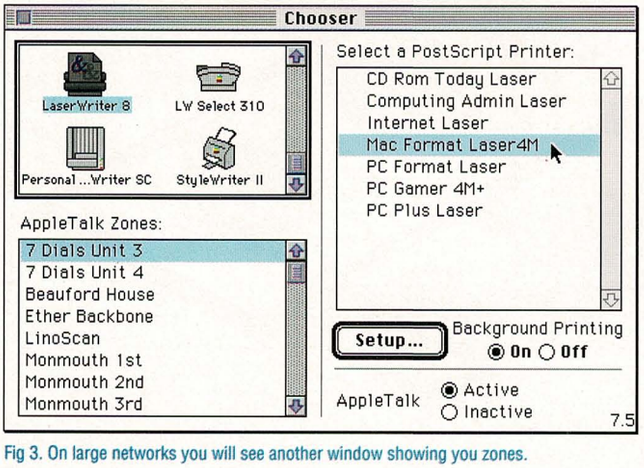


Fig 3. On large networks you will see another window showing you zones.

File Sharing

The next thing you'll want to do is share files. Here's how to enable other people to connect to your Mac...

Open the **Sharing Setup** Control Panel (again, from the **Apple** menu). Type in your name, a password, and the name of your Macintosh. Then click on **Start** to begin file sharing (see Fig 4).

Next, open the **Users and Groups** Control Panel. This is where you set up who can access your Mac. There are always two users in here. The first user has a black line around them and is the owner (you), using the same name you just typed in from the **Sharing Setup** Control Panel. The other user is a guest and is for people who don't know your password (see Fig 5).

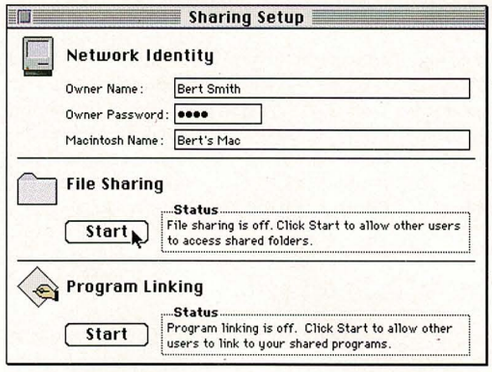


Fig 4. The **Sharing Setup** Control Panel anables you to password access to your Macintosh.

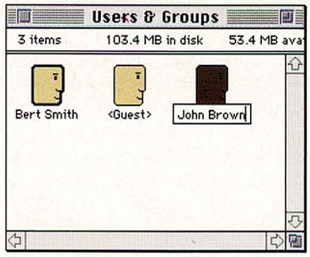


Fig 5. From the **Users and Groups** Control Panel you can create new users.

To create a new user, select **New User** from the **File** menu. Type in a name for the new user, and then double-click on the icon to set up their privileges and enter their password.

You'll need to do this with the Guest icon as well to set that up (see Fig 6).

At this point you can create a group by selecting **New Group** from the **File** menu. If you're on a large network with lots of people connected, you can divide people into groups to give them different privileges. For instance, you may want people in your department to be able to alter things on your Mac, but people in other departments only to be able to see things without altering anything. To add people to a group, just drag their icon onto the appropriate group.

When you've set up your groups go back to the Desktop and highlight the folder or hard disk you wish to share.

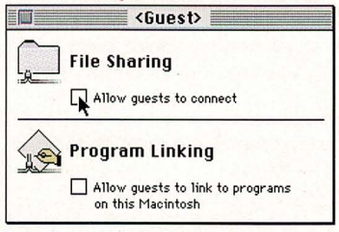


Fig 6. Before guests can log onto your machine, you'll need to check this box.

A REMOTE PROBLEM

If you work away from your main Mac, or collaborate with colleagues in other parts of the country, forget the Internet, CompuServe and the like – get *Apple Remote Access*. It costs about £35. Contact Apple on 0800 127753 for details on your local dealer.

This enables you, or your colleagues, to dial in and become a part of your existing network. You can transfer files, print and carry out all the other tasks just as if you were on a standard LocalTalk network.

With a high speed modem – 14.4K per second or more – there is very little delay and if you set up an alias then a single menu selection will do all the dialling and connection. It really is a doddle and works a treat. Needless to say, you may need to set up some security on your network to prevent people accessing your personal files, but this is easily done by requiring them to register with a password and only sharing folders that they can have access to.

If you are really paranoid then you can set the System up so that your Mac dials their number after they have called in, thus preventing people who may have stolen a password from gaining entry.

CONNECTING YOUR PRINTER

One of the main reasons for creating a network is to share a printer. How this is done depends on your printer. Low-end printers such as the original StyleWriter don't have AppleTalk built in so cannot be networked without extra software. This software comes bundled with later printers – for instance, the StyleWriter II comes with Apple's *GreyShare*, which enables the printer to be shared.

More expensive printers such as all PostScript LaserWriters have AppleTalk built-in, and can easily be networked by plugging a LocalTalk transceiver in. Only high end printers such as the LaserWriter Pro 630 have EtherNet built-in. EtherNet can be added to any AppleTalk printer but you'll need an external box, which costs around £300. See the Contacts boxout below for suppliers.

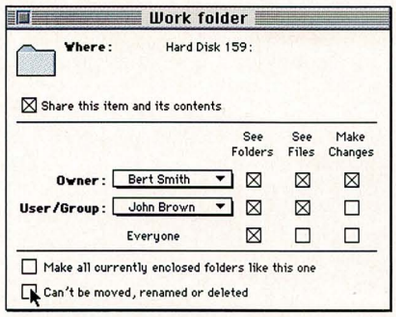


Fig 7. Click once on an icon, then select **Sharing** to set up the security for that item.

Then select **Sharing** from the **File** menu (see Fig 7). Click the check box to allow this folder and its contents to be shared, select the owner and also the registered user who will have access to it. You can decide at this point whether or not they should see the folder, the files it contains and be able to make changes to it. In this way you can control just what they see and what they can do with stuff on your hard disk.

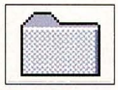
Logging on to a File Server

To connect to someone else's Mac, here's what to do: select the **Chooser** from the **Apple** menu, then click on the AppleShare icon in the left-hand window of the **Chooser**. A list of available Macs will appear to the right; to select one, just double-click on it (see Fig 8).

You'll be given the choice of connecting to the other Mac as either a Guest or a Registered User. If you have been entered in the **Users and Groups** Control Panel of the Mac you want to connect to, you can type in your name and password. Otherwise log on as a guest (see Fig 9).

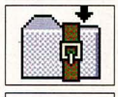
Double-click on the folder or disk you require and it will then appear on your Desktop ready for use (see Fig 10).

When using folders on another Mac, the folder's icon tells you what access privileges you have.

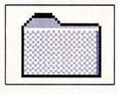


You have full access but can't change privileges

You have no access to the folder



You can only drop files into the folder



You own the folder, have full access, and can change privileges.

To get rid of a shared folder from your Desktop just drag it into the Wastebasket or press **[Command] Y.** The next time you start up you won't be connected to the shared folder unless you checked the box shown in Fig 10.

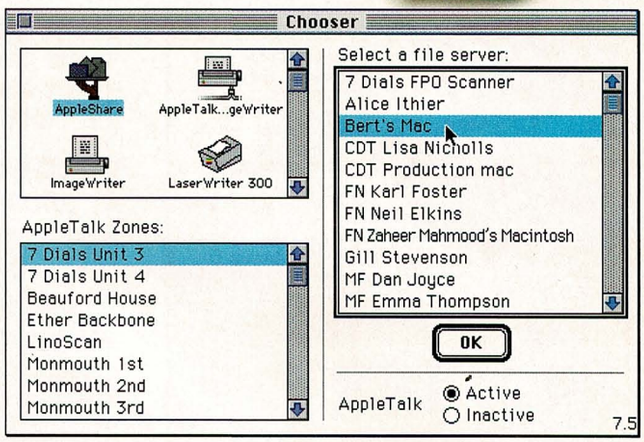


Fig 8. The **Chooser** window also enables you to connect to other Macs.

Bigger Systems

This guide has only really been concerned with the use of networks in the home and small businesses – say up to a maximum of ten devices. If your requirements are greater than this then you may need to take other factors into consideration, the major one being network traffic. If this is heavy, everything from printing to data transfer slows down, so you'd be well advised to split your network up into zones.

This is done with a software or hardware router. You'll need to talk to your supplier about this as it it rather specialised and needs professional advice. Each zone acts as a self-contained unit but has access to other zones through the routers. But now we're back in the territory of the network guru and his black arts. So we'd better not mention that, in the future, new Macs might have a built-in infra-red communication link similar to that pioneered by the Newton, or one based on the PCMCIA configuration, making it suitable for use in PowerBooks.

As the early Mac designers understood, all you *really* want to know about networks is where to plug in the cables. **MF**

ALIAS MAC & JONES

To speed up the process of logging on to another Mac, create an alias of its icon and double-click on that to log on in future.

BIG TURN OFF

If you decide at some time in the future to disconnect from the network, make sure you turn off AppleTalk in the **Chooser**. This saves on the amount of RAM your System will take up. Another reason to turn AppleTalk off is if you plug a non AppleTalk printer such as a StyleWriter into the printer port. If AppleTalk is on, it may print gibberish.

CONTACTS

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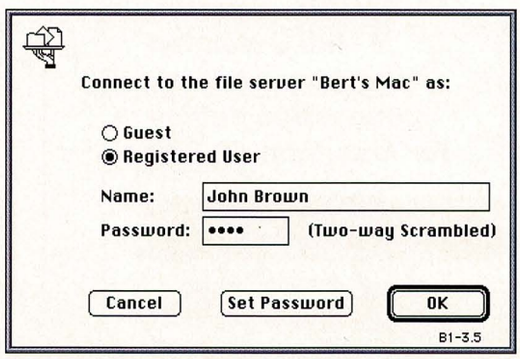

Fig 9. If you are a registered user on the network, type in your name and password to gain all of your access privileges.

Fig 10. When you connect to a folder or hard drive, you have the option of automatically connecting to it every time you start up.

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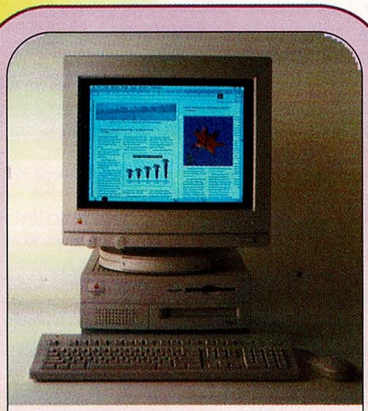

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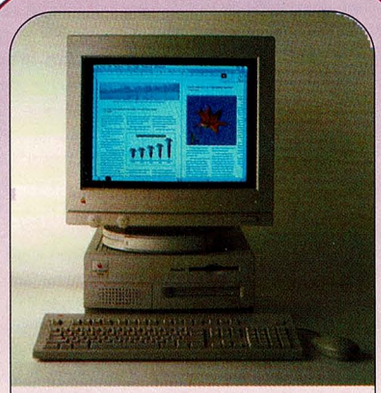

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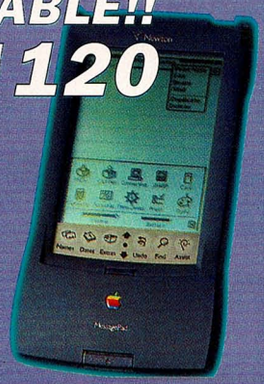

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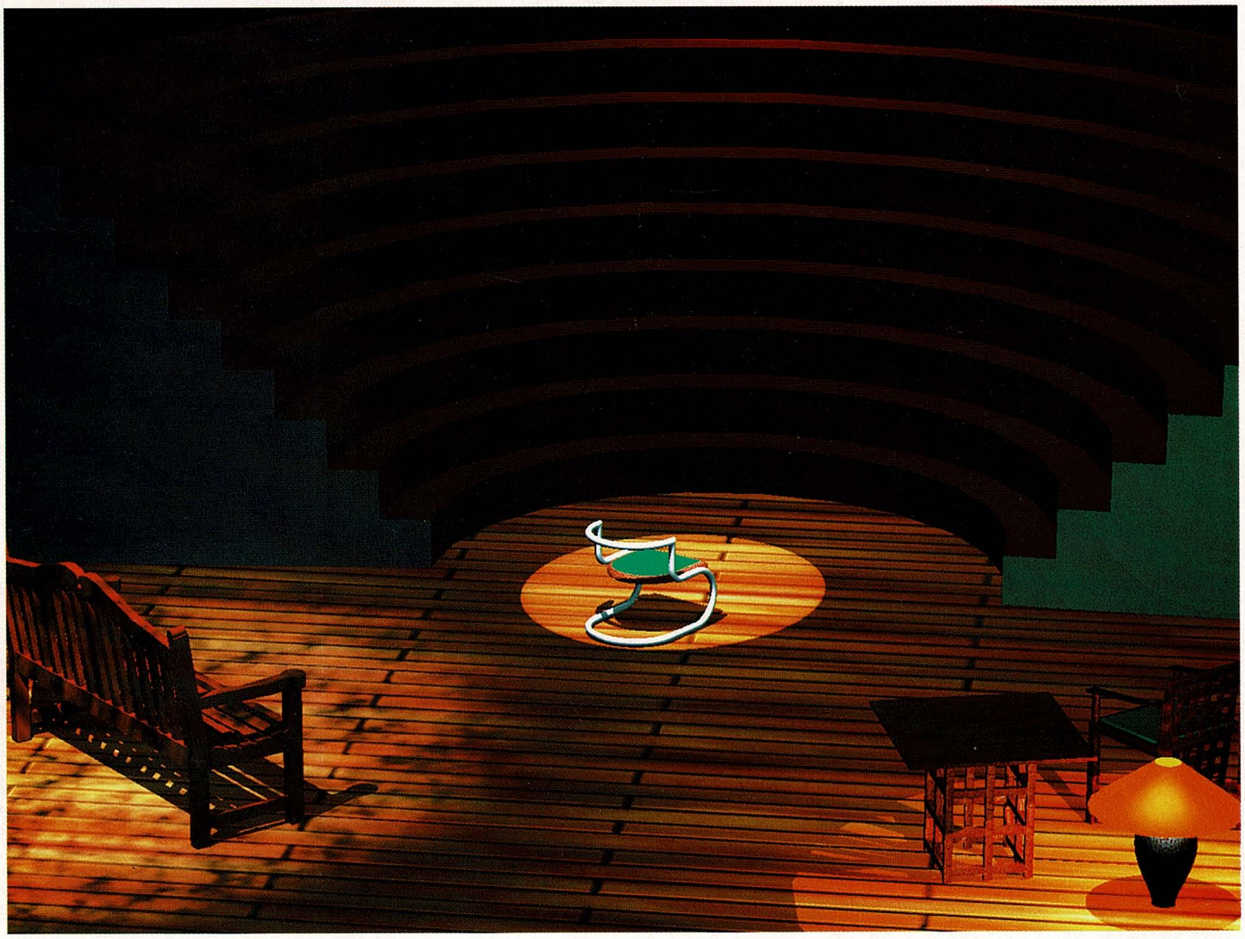
In the spotlight



Lighting your scene correctly in your art package can transform even the most poorly made model into a 3D masterpiece. Brian Larkman shows you how...

THE PROGRAMS

Wherever we've referred to 'the programs used here', we're talking about *Specular Infini-D, Strata Studio Pro, RayDream Designer 3.1.1* and *Alias Sketch 2.0*. There are dozens of 3D modelling, rendering or animation programs available for the Mac and it's impossible for us to describe them all, but the basic principles discussed here apply to almost all of them.

The real 'art' of 3D illustration is not just the level of realism that you achieve from the objects you model, but how you set the scene and light it. This is one reason why a professional's photographs look so much better than your own snaps.

Once you've acquired all the objects you need, what you require from your 3D program is an easy and intuitive way to manipulate and position the objects in your scene, and a powerful range of lighting effects that you can apply to them.

Setting the scene

Most graphics programs offer a perspective function that enables you to shrink an object in size, smoothly and in perspective. But, from the programs we've used here, *Alias Sketch* and *RayDream Designer* use an elegant and intuitive type of control as their working default mode. Perspective view manipulations can be quite slow and jerky on slower Macs, however. So to counteract this, objects can be moved, rotated or sized easily as a proxy or simple 'bounding box', which sits at the new position waiting for the full object to catch-up and redraw.

The default used by *Infini-D* and *StrataStudio* is a flat plane, front/side/top 'Triview' approach. This is less intuitive for novices, but has the advantage of being more accurate for certain operations, and less processor intensive. Flat plane views also use bounding boxes to transform complex objects. But the display is only dealing with movement in the plane of the screen; the view is often isometric, avoiding the need to show perspective effects. This simplifies the display and is usually less jerky than the perspective view manipulations of *Alias Sketch* or *RayDream Designer*.

So, assuming that you have a reasonably powerful Mac – *de rigeur* for 3D – the real question is how easy is navigation and manipulation. All the programs we've looked at can use both flat plane and perspective displays, but only a few are designed specifically for natural perspective operation.

StrataStudio, in particular, seems to be

SECRETS OF COMPOSITION

However accurate and realistic your 3D scenes, objects and lights must be orientated to create the most pleasing and atmospheric scene possible. It's an art learned by experience, but here are some pointers.

Don't be afraid to have part of an object outside the camera view – the bits of an object outside the frame imply there's a whole world in your model that is just out of sight. Zoom right in to your subject. Don't place your objects in regimented, equidistant rows – make some objects overlap to give a sense of depth and scale. But at the same time do try and look for some sort of structure.

If you have a main focal point or object, try to frame it on either side with other, larger but less detailed objects. The focal point doesn't have to be in the centre, but you should try to balance small, detailed or brightly coloured objects with other larger, less textured or darker ones. Place some objects so they appear to be just touching each other or the frame to create tension (like surface tension on water).

When adding lights vary the position and intensity carefully. Obviously the variations are infinite, but to start with try using just three lights. Place the main, strongest pointlight above and to one side of the camera. This emphasises colours and highlights, and casts good visible shadows that create a sense of depth. To one side of the main objects place a fill-in light, about 25 or 30% the intensity of the main light. Turn shadows off to provide a little fill-in of detail in shadows or a strategic highlight on shiny surfaces. Place a third pointlight low behind the objects, and set it at about 30-50% of the main light intensity. Again, shadows should be off. This gives a little brightness to edges and greatly improves transparent objects.

Real Scene Changes

As individuals we're almost unconscious of the fluid way we can manipulate our environment. We're constrained only by weight, mass, and the strength of materials. And when modern engineering and electronics are applied in a theatre or on a film set, our level of control is magnified enormously. Huge complex objects can be slid around a stage on powered remote control 'trucks', rotated on 'revolves' and flown in and out on complex steel cable 'flying' systems.

To stand any chance of emulating this fluidity, a well-designed computer-based 3D system should be able to move, rotate and resize objects, lights and cameras in all three planes smoothly and intuitively. Movement should be slick and free in two or even three dimensions at once, or locked on to any one or two of the object's planes – or even arbitrary ones.

Fluid, simple rotation should be possible for any element around any axis – within the model or outside it – around any corner, side or face. Movement should also be freed of normal constraints – smooth accurate resizing in one, two, or, three dimensions, along any chosen plane or direction becomes possible.

Most of the Mac 3D systems can do all of this reasonably well, so building and operating a virtual stage set should be a doddle.

difficult to navigate around. It's perfectly logical when you get used to it, but not very intuitive for beginners – and it's pretty expensive.

Overall lighting

In any visual art, as in life itself, the use of light is paramount. How light falls on an object's surface defines its form, its character and its mood. How you use light in 3D illustration can turn a mediocre image into a stunning one. Careful lighting can hide poor or 'economical' modelling, and can, with the aid of a bump map, give smooth computerised surfaces an effective, richly textured naturalism.

Most programs offer you control over the lighting of a scene in four ways: Ambient, Global, Point, and Spot. (All these have variations in name and parameters from program to program.) The overall light level – the Ambient light – controls how dark the shadows and shading are, without actually casting shadows. This is a bit like using the contrast button on your monitor.

Normally Ambient light is colourless; it's simply used to lighten or darken the scene. But you can give the light an overall colour if you wish. When the Ambient light is set low – close to black – all detail in the shaded areas can be lost. If you set it high – above mid-tone grey – then the whole picture takes on a flat, washed out appearance.

Ambient light is usually thought of as non-directional, like the illumination you get on a dull day or through a mist. *Alias Sketch* – just to be different from the other programs – enables a direction to be set, defining shading but not shadows.

Overall directional light is usually called Global or Distant light, and is effectively positioned at infinity so its 'rays' are parallel and cast shadows – in effect it's sunlight. *Sketch* enables you to set a position for Distant light, but this is really just a means to define direction. *Strata-Studio* and *RayDream Designer* just use a simple sphere with highlight position to define direction. *Infini-D* does not provide a distant light as such, but you can still get the effect by using a point light set at a great distance.

On the spot

Point Lights or Bulbs do not need directing – like true light bulbs they shine in all directions at once, and can cast shadows if you require. *Sketch* can position a point

BUMP MAPPING

Bump mapping is a variety of texture mapping that provides the illusion of a 3D surface. For more information regarding Texture Mapping see 'Scratching the Surface' in MACFORMAT 23.

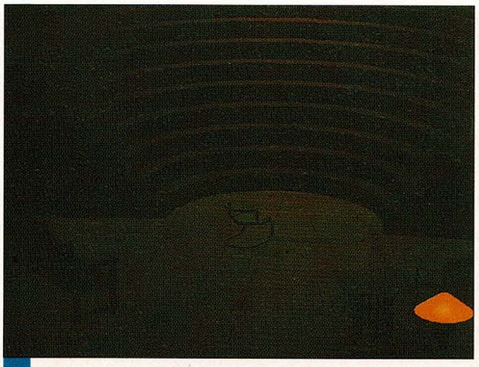
Continued on next page

LIGHTING EFFECTS

Setting the scene with lights and shadows

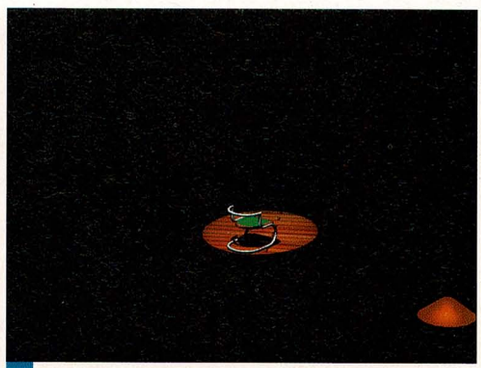
If you'd ever watched the credits roll at the end of a television programme and wondered what 'lighting technicians' did, here's your chance to find out...

Continued on next page



1 Point Light As Backlight or Fill-in. Here a point light set to 60% intensity was placed centrally, above and behind the top tier of the seating. The light casts no shadows and has a 'realistic' decay (a gradual drop in light intensity further from the source). This gives enough light to place some detail into the auditorium and the darker areas of the stage.

2 Ambient Light. A degree of Ambient light could have been used in the previous picture as shown here, but this tends to flatten the whole image, raising the level of light overall. Ambient light is also usually non-directional, so the 'character' added to the seating in the final illustration would not have been possible.



3 Profile Spotlight. Centre stage is a Spotlight set with a 30° spread angle to give a tight circle around the tubular chair. Brightness is set to 100%. Normally a spotlight would be set to cast shadows, as here. It's possible to soften the edges of the shadowed area, but the sharp edges were needed here to emphasise the bright beam.

FLAT PLANE VIEWS

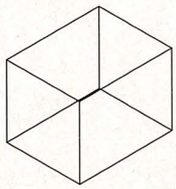
A flat plane view is a simplified 2D view along one of the three dimensions of 3D – up/down, left/right or in/out. Flat plane views were originally used in technical drawing and early CAD systems that were designed for the 'feeble minded' computers of the '80s.

TRI-VIEW

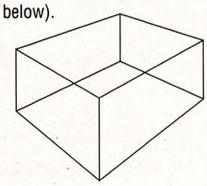
Traditionally 3D programs are often set up to show the three flat plane views simultaneously. More powerful systems can also show a more realisitc isometric view.

ISOMETRIC AND PERSPECTIVE VIEWS

An isometric view is one that has the three axes equally inclinded and all lines drawn to scale (as in the illustration just below).

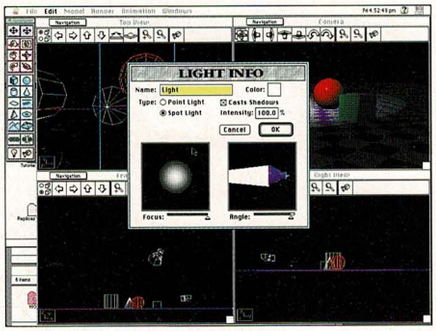


A perspective view shows the appearance of an object as determined by its distance from the viewer (as shown below).



HOW DO THEY DO IT?

Here's a quick overview of the lighting and object manipulation functions offered by the main 3D programs, and how you use them...

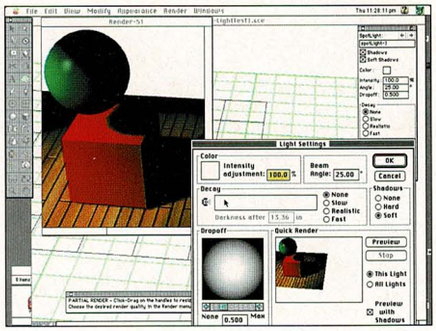


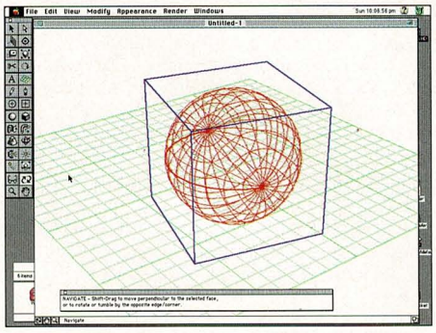
Infini-D Lights and Navigation Interface

Infini-D can manipulate objects and views easily using the fairly obvious tools in the Navigation control panel, shown here. It can be awkward to keep selecting the four panels via drop-down menus, however. Lights are placed direct on screen using toolbox tools and controlled using this dialogue box. The ability to 'point' lights and cameras at objects is very useful.

Alias Sketch Lighting Interface

Alias Sketch can place any of its lights by clicking with the respective light tool where the light is to shine, and dragging the screen icon to the position it is to shine from. This is easy but later adjustments can be fiddly. A 'point at' command would be welcome. Otherwise the *Sketch* lighting controls are very comprehensive – even including the ability to place highlights precisely!





Alias Sketch Navigation Interface

Of the four programs used, *Alias Sketch* has the most intuitive and powerful system of navigation. Objects can be moved, rotated and scaled in any plane simply with a single 'Handle' tool (dragging the faces, edges and corners of the bounding box). The 'Navigation' tool adopts a similar process to move, rotate and zoom the view. Other tools give more precision or variety of control.

'REAL' LIGHT RIGGING

Lighting for theatre, film, video or live music all uses a range of light sources that are very similar. And all of these light sources can be emulated easily in a 3D package. In fact, the process of setting up the lighting is much the same because the final results all these media require are the same: an emulation of the real world in man-made circumstances.

In the theatre, for example, there are two basic types of light: Profile Spot and Fresnel Spot. A Profile Spot produces a narrow focussed beam, using internal shutters or irises to control size and edge sharpness, and shaped profiles or 'gobos' to project 'spotlights' with particular patterns.

Fresnel Spots are wider and less focused. They're good for producing a general wash of light and colour (using coloured plastic sheets in front of the light called Gels), or a more focussed area of light – a stage effect similar to 'point' illumination in a normal room.

On a film set, much larger versions of these lights are used to give the impression of parallel or 'distant' lights – such as sunlight.

light that is set automatically just above and behind the view point to produce an effect like a Flash gun. This can be turned off if you wish to place other lights. Point lights usually have a brightness and/or colour setting to control intensity, and can often be set to fade or 'decay' over a certain distance just as a realistic bulb's light would.

Spotlights are provided by virtually all 3D packages on the Mac – certainly all four of the ones we used. Potentially, spotlights provide the most atmospheric and striking effects, although if they're used badly they can look quite crude. As well as setting the angle of the beam and the degree of decay over distance, the edge of a spotlight can be set to 'dropoff'

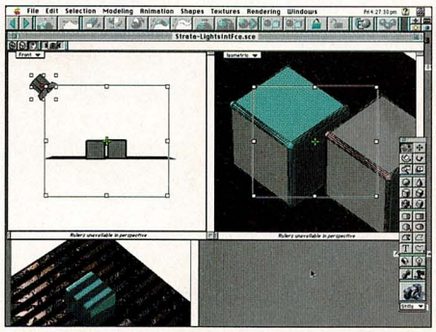
LIGHTING EFFECTS

Continued from previous page

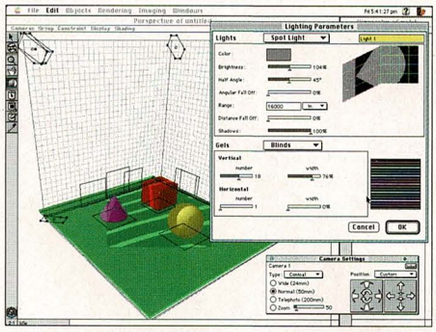
4 Spotlight Edge Dropoff.
The edges of a spotlight beam can be softened by applying a degree of Dropoff (a gradual drop in light intensity the further you get from the centre of the beam).

5 Spotlight With Gobo.
A circular beam profile is built into most spotlights, but simple stencils or 'gobo's' can be used instead by placing a plane object with a shaped hole through it in front of the beam. For more complex shapes and levels of transparency, an image can be used as a transparency map.

6 Spotlight With Greyscale Gel.
Any image can be mapped onto a plane object to define transparency – known as a 'gel'. A greyscale image was used here to produce the effect of dappled shadows. Some programs – like *StrataStudio* and *RayDream Designer* – have lights with built-in gobos and gels, making it easier to manage lighting assemblies.

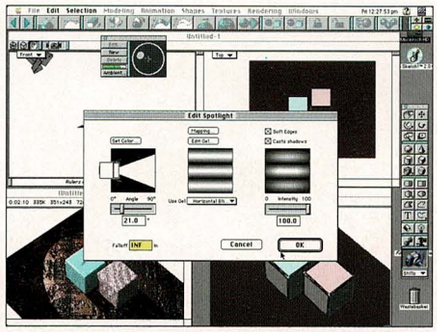


StrataStudio Navigation Interface
StrataStudio uses a rectangular 'viewfinder' overlay to navigate your viewpoint or camera. Although this becomes logical with use, it is not very intuitive for beginners. Perspective or isometric movement is possible but quirky, and scene-setting can be quite aggravating.



RDD Navigation and Lighting Interface
RayDream Designer has an incredibly easy to use and intuitive object manipulation interface based on the projection of bounding boxes onto planes, as shown here. The system is rather let down, however, by the slightly awkward view/camera controls. Lights are easily placed using the normal object manipulation tools. They have built-in gels and can be 'pointed-at' objects for easy orientation.

StrataStudio Lighting Interface
Lighting in *StrataStudio* is very powerful and easy to use. Global, Point and Spot light-sources are provided and 'Point-At' is possible using the animation path filters. Soft edged shadows are possible using 'Raydiosity'. Using this extremely time consuming rendering method it is even possible for you to 'inter-object diffuse illumination'. In other words, you can create the diffuse colours one matt object can radiate to another.



or fade, suggesting a focussed or unfocussed beam.

Most lightsources other than Ambient light can cast shadows, though this ability can usually be turned off. The direction of the shadow is defined by the position of the light and, if it is directional, where the lightsource is pointing.

In *RayDream Designer* and *Infini-D* this process is made easier by the 'Point At' command, which makes any camera or light point at a designated object. *StrataStudio* can use an animation extension to get the same result in a rather roundabout way. *Alias Sketch* has no Point At command, but lights are set initially by dragging from the point on the live plane that you want the light to look at. If they need to be reset later, the 'target' is always the centre of rotation.

Any lightsource that can cast a shadow is capable of projecting a Gel or Gobo, though normally a spotlight is used because it has additional parameters to assist control of the 'projection'. In *RayDream Designer* and *StrataStudio,* this process is automated by providing some built-in profiles and the ability to load bitmap shapes to a light automatically.

Nevertheless, all programs enable one or more faced objects to be placed in front of a light, either to provide a 'barn door' mask, or with a semi-transparent image mapped onto it to create subtle shadow effects. Experiment with the *Infini-D* demo (MACFORMAT 22) and find out! **MF**

WHERE CAN YOU GET THEM?

- *Alias Sketch 2.0.* Price: £399.
For more details contact Gomark on 0171 731 7930.
- *RayDream Designer 3.1.*
Price: £323.13.
For more details contact Principal on 0181 813 5445.
- *Specular Infini-D.* Price: £572.23.
For more details contact Gomark on 0171 731 7930.
- *StrataStudio Pro.* Price: £1,194.98.
For more details contact Gomark on 0171 731 7930.

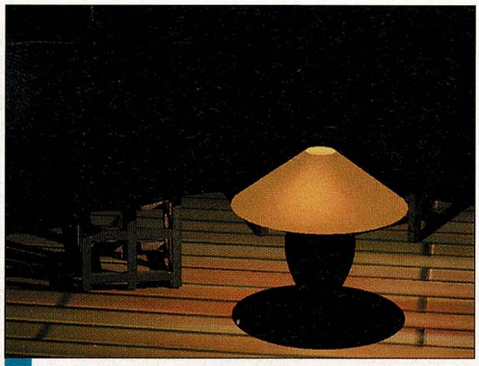
BARN DOOR MASK
A pair of hinged masks that can be folded over the front of a stage, film or TV light to constrain the beam to a slot. Often a second pair are placed at right angles for even greater control.

GOBOS AND GELS
Strictly speaking a gobo is an opaque material with a perforated shape similar to a stencil that enables a shaped beam of light to be cast, and a gel is a coloured sheet of acetate material placed in front of a light source to colour it. Several 3D programs incorrectly use these terms interchangeably.

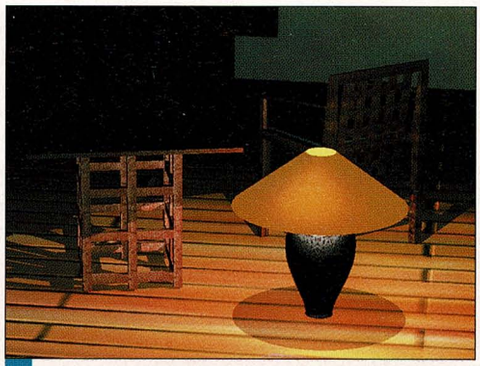
BOUNDING BOX
A complex object may be too large to select and move in real time, so a rectangular 3D wireframe box, just large enough to contain (or 'bound') the object is constructed around it. The box is then transformed as required in real time, then the object is redrawn in the new position.

NEXT MONTH
So, we have our scene set and our lights rigged. All we need now is the cameras in position and we are ready to render. But for that you'll have to wait till next month!

7 Spotlight With Coloured Gel.
Coloured images mapped onto a plane object can also be used as gels, to produce a wash of colour (though this can usually be achieved more easily by setting the light to a colour), coloured highlights, colour gradients,or 'slide projection' effects.



8 Lamp-shades – Single Shadowing
An attempt has been made here to simulate a lamp-shade, using a single shadowing point light source and a 'glow map'. This is okay but no light is cast on surrounding objects through the shade. Making the shadows soft edged can help in *Alias Sketch* , but even this produces curious light effects.



9 Lamp-shades – Two Lights
Using two point lights, you get a better lamp-shade effect. And by placing a second, non-shadowing, point-source in front of the first, light is cast onto the lamp base and objects around the lamp as if illuminated through the shade. If the lamp were on the table, the floor beneath would be illuminated through it.

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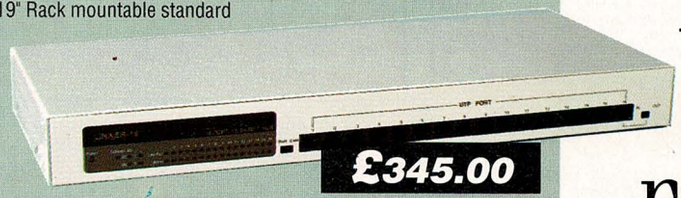

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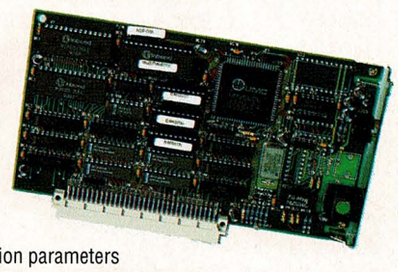

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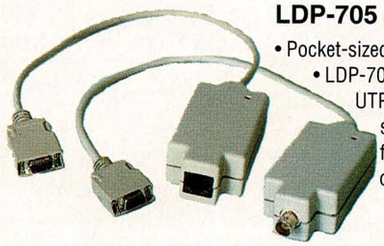

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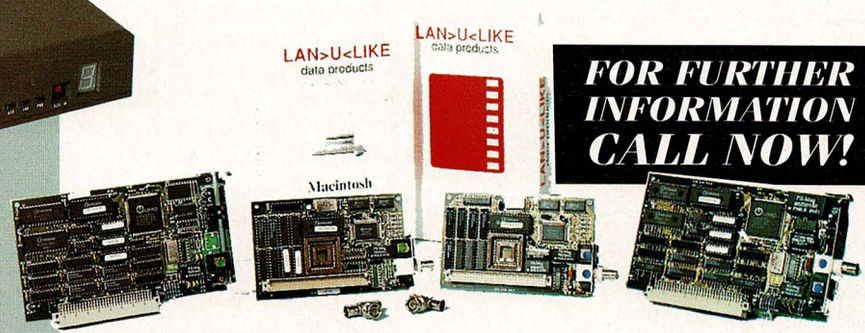

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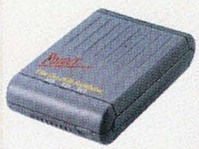

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Publish and be educated

Desktop publishing isn't just about businesses and offices; it can be a fun way of learning too. Phil Moore provides some pointers to get children started at school and at home.

In schools, the term 'desktop publishing' generally used to refer to programs that enabled you to manipulate words in a variety of ways – often to create print-outs that looked like a newspaper's front pages. Much has changed since the early days, both in terms of the programs available and the hardware running them. Macs, for instance, can handle text in more flexible ways than almost any other computer found in schools.

These days it's rare to find references to DTP in curriculum documentation – it doesn't appear at all in the latest National Curriculum documents for England and Wales. The activities that used to be associated with DTP have not disappeared, of course. Children now manipulate words, images and sounds in a whole range of ways using programs like *HyperStudio* (see MACFORMAT 14).

But DTP has a distinct meaning which relates to the ultimate aim of the exercise: a print-out. So, for the purposes of this article, I am defining DTP as being the use of a Mac to manipulate words and images – created by you or collected from other sources – with the eventual aim of taking a print-out.

What you can do with DTP

One of the benefits for children of DTP-type activities is that the work pre-supposes an audience with whom they are communicating. In the past (and you may remember this!) children in school were asked to write things for no real purpose, knowing that only the teacher would see the work.

One of the significant changes in the UK curriculum in recent years has been the growing recognition that children learn more effectively if: (a) they can see a purpose to what they're doing; and (b) they know that there is a real audience for their work.

If you have to think about who is going to read what you've written, you tend to think a little more about communicating effectively. You pay attention to such things as punctuation and spelling, the way that you are presenting your work, and the devices that you use to convey exactly what you mean. For example, you tend not to scribble random thoughts to your bank manager if you want to extend your overdraft.

In the past children were asked to write things for no real purpose, knowing that only the teacher would see the work.

Another recent change has been the increased range of sources of 'raw material'. For example, there have been a growing number of reference CD-ROMs published; these enable you to save images and words to disk. Then there's the possibility of putting your own photographs on CD-ROM, or using a QuickCam (the new low-cost digital camera – see MACFORMAT 23) to capture a picture .

The advent of multimedia Macs such as the 630 has also raised the possibility of capturing frames from video or TV directly onto your hard disk. This has greatly increased the quality and range of the images that can be incorporated into your own documents.

The Internet also provides access not only to a huge range of images, such as the NASA images from the Hubble telescope and recent Shuttle missions, but also access to millions upon millions of words. Some of these words come from reference materials (such as the Virtual Library at Cern **http://tecfa.unige.ch/info-edu-comp.html**).

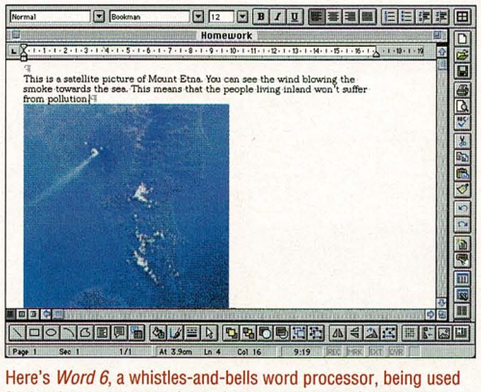
But many words on the Internet come from people talking about themselves, about what interests them, and about their surroundings. It is now possible for children to send a message to someone living in a place that they are studying, or to contact someone who has expertise in a subject that they are doing work about. They can then get comments, reactions and thoughts from these people.

In this way, the source material on which children can draw has become richer. And the potential for voices other than their own to appear in their work is greater now than it's ever been. Of course, this raises the issue of plagiarism – but plagiarism is using someone else's words pretending that they are your own.

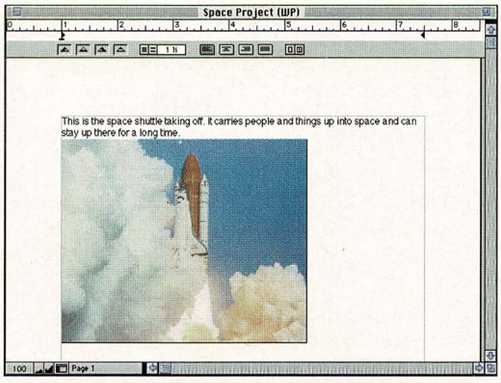
Continued on next page

QUICKER CAMERA?

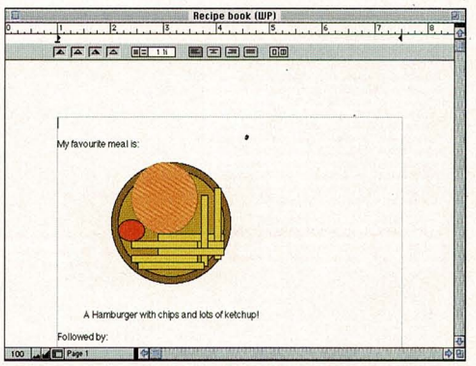
The Connectix QuickCam is a golf-ball-sized digital video camera, capable of capturing QuickTime video in black and white on any Mac without any extra video capture hardware – all for just £152. For more details see MACFORMAT 23, or contact Connectix on 0181 200 8282.


Homework
This is a satellite picture of Mount Etna. You can see the wind blowing the smoke towards the sea. This means that the people living inland won't suffer from pollution

Here's *Word 6*, a whistles-and-bells word processor, being used for a science or geography project on volcanoes. Stuff like this looks superb if you can output it on a colour printer.


Space Project (WP)
This is the space shuttle taking off. It carries people and things up into space and can stay up there for a long time.

Even *ClarisWorks* can incorporate pictures pasted from the scrapbook. Blast off for punchy graphics!



A book of recipes with computer-drawn junk food! You could even include a real picture of it, if you like that sort of thing...

CLARISWORKS DTP
Doing basic layouts doesn't demand a top end DTP package like *QuarkXPress*. Have a look at the tutorial on page 52 to see what you can do with *ClarisWorks*.

MAC TO PC DTP
You should be able to transfer DTP files from one platform to the other if the application is on both machines. For instance, you can create a *Microsoft Works* or *ClarisWorks* file on your Mac and open it on a PC – assuming the PC has the software installed. If not, you'll be limited to transferring text.

Children should be taught always to acknowledge where they get materials from by giving a reference.

There has also been rapid development in the capabilities of the software. In the past, you would have needed a word processor *and* a DTP program. Now, many word processor packages provide all you need for DTP but aren't as complex as, say, *PageMaker* or *QuarkXPress*. This is a benefit for young children, because those complex DTP programs can be very difficult to learn to use – not to say expensive – whereas *ClarisWorks*, for example, enables them to manipulate words and images very simply.

Using DTP in school

At school, children are likely to use DTP for a number of purposes. One activity that a growing number of schools are getting involved in is 'Newspaper Days'. The idea behind this is that children spend a whole day receiving news – real or imagined – which they have to write up and present as the front page of a newspaper. The pioneer of this on a national basis is Campus 2000 – an e-mail and database system which is shortly to become an Internet provider.

In the Campus 2000 version of the Newspaper Day, real news agencies send live news 'down the line'. Schools all over the country produce newspapers based on what they receive from the agencies, as well as from other schools and from 'reporters' who are sent out locally. Some of the work which builds up to these events in schools involves the children in visits to local newspaper offices, where they will often see the Mac as the preferred choice of those who do the layouts for the paper.

In terms of the curriculum, it is tempting to see DTP as only having relevance in English – after all, that is the subject concerned with writing. But children write in all subjects in one way or another, and DTP can be very useful elsewhere. In modern languages, for example, the Mac can provide accented characters such as â, ñ and å, as they're part of the standard character set. (This is not true of all computers.)

This potential to use accurate representations of a wide range of European languages means that creating the front page of a school-based French language newspaper, a tourist leaflet, or an advert for an imaginary French product will have added authenticity.

On 'Newspaper Days' children spend a day receiving news – real or imagined – which they have to present as a paper's front page.

In science, children can present an experiment – on planets, perhaps, or on pollution – on attractive pages. This will test their understanding far more than a dry essay. In maths, they can produce an interesting display about the properties of various shapes, thanks to the facility of programs such as *Word* or *ClarisWorks* to use different fonts, colours and pictures. And in Design and Technology, DTP can be (and is) used for presentations about products which the children are designing and making, as well as for adverts to sell those products.

In these subjects, and in most others, it is possible to turn a task which involves writing into the creation of an interesting display which draws upon a mixture of words and pictures. The classroom Mac deserves to be exploited!

DTP in the home

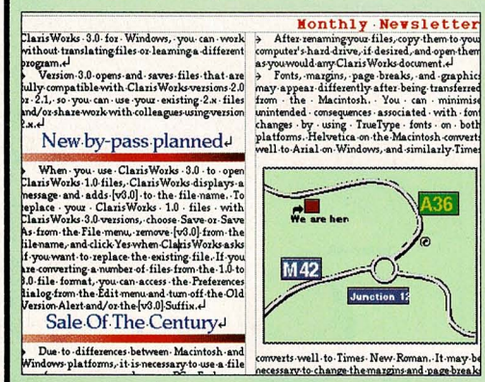
Many young children, when they discover the capabilities of programs to integrate words and images, enjoy making up newspapers, leaflets and posters about a whole range of things. It might be their favourite group, a television program, a book they've enjoyed, or even the computer game that is taking up much of their time. Some children have even made up their own little booklets of 'cheats' for computer games that their friends play.

Why not encourage your child to make a newspaper reporting on a holiday, a birthday or an anniversary celebration? The results can make wonderful keepsakes for the family, and provide a much richer way of storing memories than all those photographs or videotapes that hide in the sideboard for years on end. Or you could work with your child to create a recipe book of the family's favourite meals, complete with pictures.

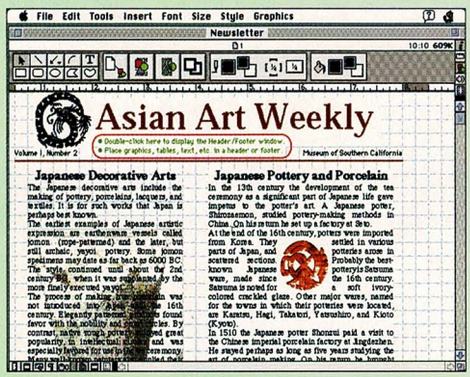
If you've tried any of these ideas, or have some of your children's work which you'd like to share with other readers, why not send a copy on disk or via e-mail to MACFORMAT? We'll try to find space for submissions on the cover CD-ROM. **MF**

DTP SOFTWARE TO TRY OUT

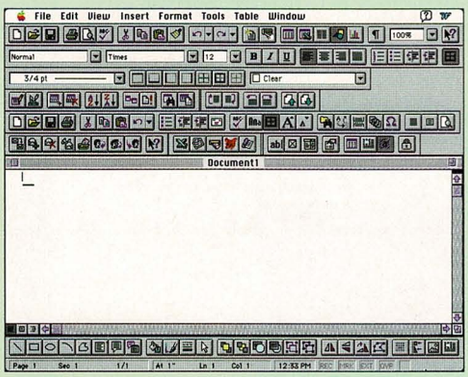
Here's a range of software that can be used for fairly basic desktop publishing, and is suitable for use with children. For details of more sophisticated and expensive programs, such as *QuarkXPress* and *PageMaker*, see the full head-to-head review starting on page 42.



ClarisWorks
An integrated word processing/spreadsheet/database suite, this is frequently bundled with new Macs. It is perfectly adequate for simple DTP and many children will already be using this in school.
Price £151.75
Contact Claris on 0800 929005



Nisus Writer
If you saw the demo on last month's disk, you'll know that this is a straightforward word processor that can handle graphics too. If you're not interested in producing glossy newsstand magazines, this could be everything you need.
Price: £351.33
Contact Softline on 0181 401 1234



Microsoft Word
A powerful word processor, the latest version, *Word 6.0*, has many of the facilities that once used to be associated only with expensive publishing programs. such as simple graphics creation and manipulation.
Price: £220
Contact Microsoft on 01734 270000

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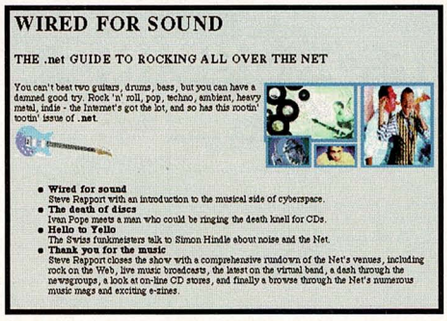
WIRED FOR SOUND
THE .net GUIDE TO ROCKING ALL OVER THE NET
You can't beat two guitars, drums, bass, but you can have a damned good try. Rock 'n' roll, pop, techno, ambient, heavy metal, indie - the Internet's got the lot, and so has this rootin' tootin' issue of .net.
Wired for sound
Steve Rapport with an introduction to the musical side of cyberspace.
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Ivan Pope meets a man who could be ringing the death knell for CDs.
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The Swiss funkmeisters talk to Simon Hindle about noise and the Net.
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Steve Rapport closes the show with a comprehensive rundown of the Net's venues, including rock on the Web, live music broadcasts, the latest on the virtual band, a dash through the newsgroups, a look at on-line CD stores, and finally a browse through the Net's numerous music mags and exciting e-zines.

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Don't Panic
Those stupid little problems that have been annoying you, the ones you can't find any answers for in the DOS or Windows manuals, will annoy no more. Ed Ricketts and Paul Pettengale are the smartarses with all the answers. Photography: Ashton James
We are your friends, we like to help you out, and we enjoy telling you what to do. At which point we'd like to add that it's also our job, and we've all got mortgages to pay for, so when we're told, "Give our readers at least 100 top tips on how to get the most out of their PCs, informing them how to make their PC-using lives easier, and giving them the lowdown on the essential software they should get", we jump. And after we've done that we get down to it.
We know these PC things can be a pain where it hurts from time to time - things go wrong, you get confused, you cock everything up. Hey, we've all done it (though Ed never admits to it), but in most cases, if you have your PC set up well in the first place, or if you follow a series of simple precautionary procedures once a month or so, you can rest assured that things will never, ever go wrong. Well, not frequently at any rate. So let us tell you what to do, tip by tip, to make sure that your PC life is a happy one.

Articles from back issues are available free to search and browse.

To advertise on FutureNet, email **Simon Richardson** at srichardson@futurenet.co.uk or call 01225 442244.

Credit Card Control

With 'e-cash' becoming an ever closer reality, credit card security is an increasing concern. Andy Storer talks to three of the UK's main service providers about their controls.

There's a very lucrative race going on at the moment among the many companies building the superhighway infrastructure. The first outfit to crack the tricky problem at the core of it will be guaranteed to make a great deal of money. The golden opportunity is 'e-cash' and the race is all about which service company can provide the first absolutely secure Internet trading currency.

The potential's there for all to see. While you may want to buy goods from abroad, unless you have an internationally accepted credit card, you have to use an international money order, which takes an eternity to arrive. But there isn't an international on-line currency you can use instead, other than Amex, Mastercard and Visa. Many people are wary about giving out their credit card details on-line; they feel these systems are not totally secure. Apart from the threat of hacking, there are some pertinent questions you should bear in mind when using credit cards on-line. Who is responsible for the security of thousands of credit card numbers? Who owns these services and who are they accountable to? And just how secure are their systems?

We asked three of the UK's main service providers these questions, and found out what they have to say about the inherent flaw of an insecure Internet.

CIX

Cara Gardner of CIX (Compulink Information eXchange) is confident that her company's handling of credit card transactions is secure. She says, 'Over the ten years we've been up and running, we've attracted over 15,500 subscribers and we haven't had one complaint about fraud or abuse. Over half our customers pay their monthly bills by credit card and we have a policy of access to those details that's limited to only five administrative staff.

'Because of the way the credit card information is transferred in the first place, the system is as secure as if you were giving those details by voice in any case.'

But what if you're still doubtful or don't have a credit card – how can you subscribe then? 'Very easily. Anyone can become a subscriber by phoning in and asking us for the forms to set up direct debits or an invoice payment scheme.'

So, are there *any* dangers involved in using credit cards on on-line services? 'All I would say is that people should be wary of giving their details to very small bulletin boards – you have to bear in mind that not only may these systems have poor security, but they may have been set up with the express intention of gaining credit card details.'

So, as more and more transactions occur on-line, will we need additional safeguards? 'Developments like the World Wide Web make the adoption of e-cash inevitable. Since Web sites are open systems and more and more are beginning to include on-line purchasing and transactions, there's a need to replace credit cards as the form of billing. I expect e-cash to come on-line within the next couple of years – *Wired's* site, Hotwired, already has a trial version up and running where you're given e-cash credits to use. It's not real money of course, it's just a trial to see what the advantages, disadvantages and potential pitfalls are.'

CompuServe

Neil Laver, CompuServe UK's product manager, is also adamant that his company offers a high level of security. 'Our system is very secure. When you consider we have two million members and we've been operating for 15 years, and in that time we haven't had one instance of a breach, not one complaint about fraud, you'll appreciate that we provide an extremely secure setup.

'I'd go as far as to say that our security methods are greater than those of high street retailers. When you go into a shop and pay by credit card you have no control over where those credit card slips go. Here we have controlled access to who sees your details by trained employees.

'What you should bear in mind is that CompuServe is a closed system... we can control who sees what – unlike on the Internet where anyone with the tools could observe financial transactions. We can provide complete security because we can define precisely who has access to what. We've had no known breaches and if we were so unfortunate as to encounter any I'm sure we could accommodate any victims of fraud or abuse in any case.'

Are there alternative methods of payment available? 'Yes, sure, individuals can pay by direct debit and businesses by

Cara Gardner of CIX is confident about security of credit card transactions.

Steve Kennedy of Demon says, 'We don't offer on-line credit card subscriptions...'

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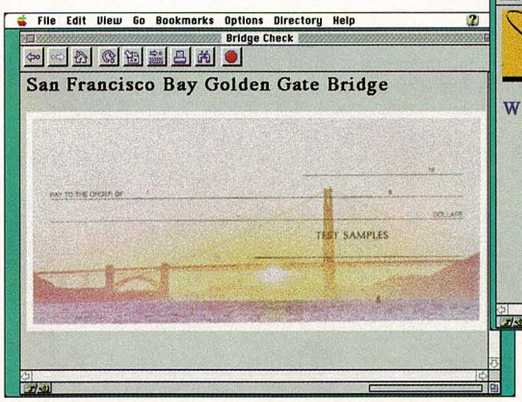

Because of the lack of security on the Internet's World Wide Web, Citibank's site offers only services like cheque book orders.

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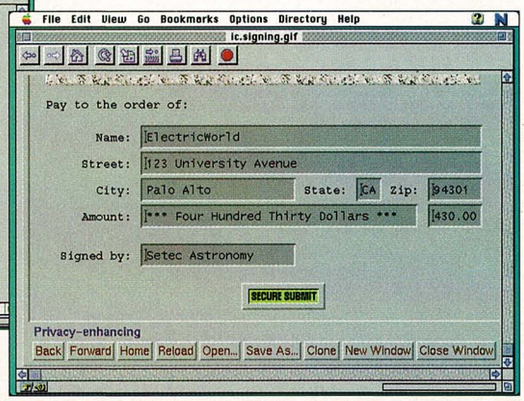
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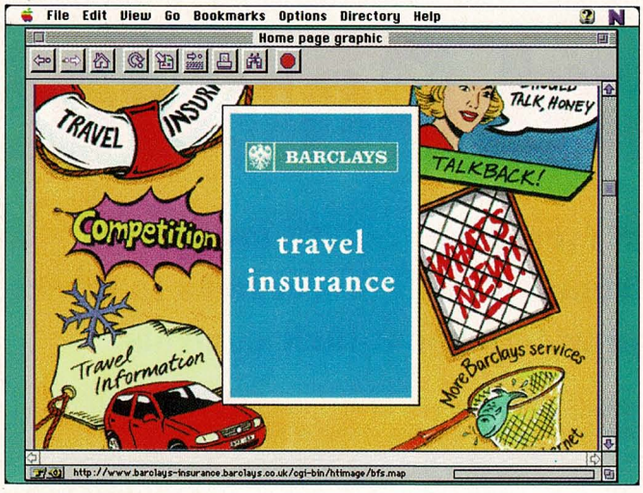


Barclays offers a scheme to give you insurance quotes by e-mail, but you still have to pick up the phone to pay.

invoice.' Do you think some form of 'e-cash' will become prevalent on the Net? 'Yes, it's almost definitely necessary. Visa and Microsoft are both taking initiatives in this area. It's only a matter of time.'

Demon

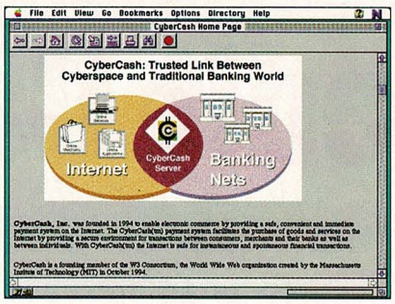
Demon was set up two and a half years ago to provide Internet access. In that time it has attracted 26,000 subscribers and is growing at a rate of 15% each month. We spoke to Steve Kennedy, Demon's business development manager, and asked how payments are tendered.

'We don't offer on-line credit card subscriptions – people have to phone us and leave their credit details with our sales staff. So their details aren't actually accessible from the Internet – they just reside on our office network here.

'Also we don't maintain any details about individuals because of the expense of meeting the requirements of the Data Protection Act. All we maintain is a person's nodename and password, so there's no personal information stored.'

Do you plan to introduce on-line subscription? And if so, do you offer alternative means of payment? 'At present we don't have the means of authorising or verifying credit card details on-line so we don't offer it. We ask that people subscribe by voice only and tender their credit card details. We hope to offer direct debit as a payment method in the future.'

In the future how do you see on-line business being transacted? 'Eventually we might all end up with an e-cash style of system – people like digiCash and Mondex are already developing the infrastructure. But in the meantime it's more likely that credit card companies will begin to offer "encrypted" transactions that can only be read by the server and client.' **MF**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The wonderfully-named CyberCash is another attempt to help you pay bills on-line in safety.

ON-LINE SERVICE

So, what exactly does an on-line service provide? In a nutshell, the infra-structure to go on-line – dozens of phone lines into its modems, hundreds of gigabytes of storage space, and dozens of lines out to other services across the globe carrying your messages and commands. It also includes the cost of licensing the interface and the administration involved in maintaining that interface and the services you access through it. No money is paid out to information providers – it's strictly one-way traffic. All the service is providing is the physical means by which information can be exchanged and it charges everyone who uses it a subscription fee and on-line usage fee for that privilege.

While you may have reservations about the charges involved – perhaps noting the fact that in the US and Canada all connect times are free because they're local calls – there's no denying that, like any other commercial entity, these services have to make a profit. Otherwise they wouldn't have the resources to offer an even better service by drawing on improvements in communications technology.

Buying advice

Whether you're buying by mail or in person, here are some sensible precautions to bear in mind. Note that everything here applies to buying from a business; most of it does *not* apply to buying from a private seller in MACFORMAT's reader ads pages.

Always be absolutely clear about what is included in the price – postage and packing? Any necessary cables, etc? VAT? (By law, an advert must say *explicitly* if VAT is not included; if it doesn't, VAT *is* included. But this could be in the small print – so make sure that you read it all!) If you're buying in person, check that everything is there and that it all works properly before you leave the shop. If you're buying by mail, ring the supplier first to confirm the price and availability, and ask what your options will be if there should be any problem. Find out when you can realistically expect delivery. Always keep all receipts and make records of all correspondence, whether it's by mail or by phone.

How to protect yourself

If you are buying goods of more than £100 in total value, always try to use a credit card. That way, in the unlikely event of anything going wrong, you will be legally entitled to claim against the credit card company as well as the seller, even if the seller has gone bust. You may also get extra insurance – check with your credit card company.

If you don't have a credit card, always pay by cheque or postal order (ask at your local post office). Never send cash through the mail – it is impossible to trace if it gets lost, you can't stop payment if you need to, and even if you have proof of posting it is impossible to prove how much you sent.

Keep records. If you're paying by credit card keep a note of the exact time of the order and ask for an order number. If you're paying by cheque make sure you fill in the details of the date, amount and payee's exact name in the stub – and keep it!

When a mail order arrives

Check everything carefully. If anything is missing, contact the supplier immediately. If something doesn't work, make obvious checks (the fuse, etc), but don't try to repair it. If there's anything you're not happy with, don't use it – if you do, you could be deemed to have accepted it.

If there's a problem

Whether you bought it by mail or in a shop, the law says a product must be:

1. 'of merchantable quality' (that is, broadly speaking, it must actually be in working condition);
2. 'as described' (in the advert or in person – and this one criterion also applies when you're buying from a private seller, not a business); and
3. fit for the purpose for which it was sold or for the purpose you specified when you ordered it.

If it fails to meet any or all of these criteria, then you are entitled to return the goods for a refund, receive compensation for all or part of the value, or get a replacement or free repair, depending on the seriousness of the defect. These are the 'statutory rights' that adverts always say are 'not affected' by any extra guarantees. The supplier cannot change or deny these rights.

If you're not happy about something, always contact the supplier first and politely explain your problem. Most problems are sorted out at this stage with no fuss. But if they're not, put your complaint in writing, clearly stating your problem and including any relevant dates, etc, and send it to the manager or owner – ask for the correct name and job title. Give the supplier a reasonable time to reply – say ten days or so.

If the problem is still not resolved, you may need to take some sort of legal action to enforce your rights. This need not cost you a lot of money. You should seek advice from a solicitor (ask about the free advice scheme) or from one of the following organisations (check in your local telephone directory):

- Citizen's Advice Bureau;
- Trading Standards Office (listed under your local council);
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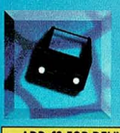

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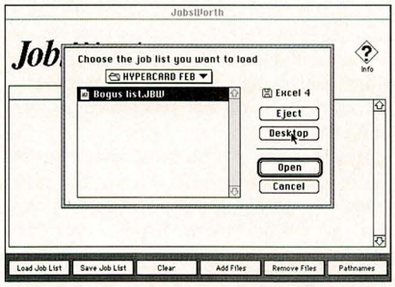


JobsWorth enables you to compile lists of related files kept in various different locations – and you can view them too. You'll find on this month's coverdisk.

Get it sorted!

Rod Lawton writes a stack that organises your files and applications, and brings you the latest *LastDitch* news...

Planning a feature in a magazine like MACFORMAT is a pretty complicated business. It's all very well if you've just got one text file and a handful of screen grabs, but unfortunately life is usually far more complicated than that.

In fact, a major feature may have contributions from a number of authors. There may be dozens of grabs, scans and other graphics to go with it. And these individual elements will often be stored in separate places – so how do you manage to keep track of them all?

The obvious answer is to gather them together into one folder, but that's not always practical – especially if all your office machines are linked over a network, and if certain file types need to be kept in certain places. On MACFORMAT, for example, high-resolution scans are kept on a large file-server in a separate building. And even if your set-up isn't that complicated, you might prefer to keep different file types separate.

JobsWorth is a program that can solve your problems and it isn't just for *HyperCard* owners. If you have a CD-ROM drive you can use the stand-alone utility, which runs independently of *HyperCard*. You'll find it on this month's CD-ROM.

Try *JobsWorth* for yourself – it's on this month's CD-ROM and floppy disk

JobsWorth enables you to build up lists of associated files – or 'job lists'. These lists can be saved as separate text files and loaded into *JobsWorth* at will. In this way you can keep track of any number of files associated with a single job (like a large feature in MACFORMAT, for example), without these files having to be confined to a single folder.

JobsWorth does more than maintain a list of filenames, though. It actually stores the complete pathname, so you have not only a record of the file names, but also their last known location.

What's more, if you click on a file in the job list, *JobsWorth* will open it for you, prompting you for an application to use. The application you choose can then be saved as part of the job list so that next time you click on that file, the application opens automatically.

JobsWorth has a lot of potential for all sorts of Mac users. It doesn't just help build lists of associated files stored in different locations – it can also 'filter out' unwanted or irrelevant files, making it an excellent interface for kids or other inexperienced users who might otherwise get lost and horribly confused.

How it works

JobsWorth is built around just two HyperTalk commands. These are: `answer file` and `open file <filename> with <application>`. The `answer file` command presents you with the standard Mac file-finding dialogue. When you select a file, the file's full pathname goes into the `it` variable. You can then store it in a field, adding more files to your list as and when you want.

However, full pathnames are long, unwieldy and hard to read. Ideally, you want only the filenames to be displayed, not whole pathnames. So in *JobsWorth* you'll find a cheeky little routine that strips out all the path information to leave just the bare filename.

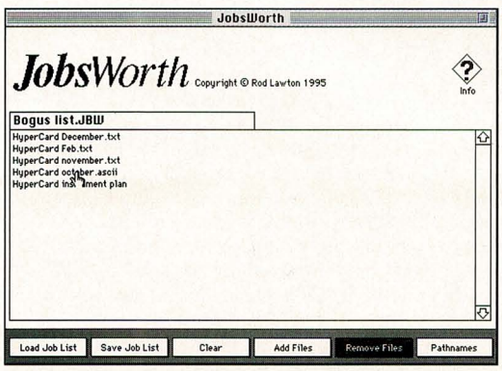
This list of filenames is what you see displayed. The full pathnames are still useful though, so they're retained, but in a hidden field. This field is displayed when you click on the Pathnames button.

There's another hidden field, which contains the names of the applications you've chosen to open the files on the list, so whenever you click on a filename

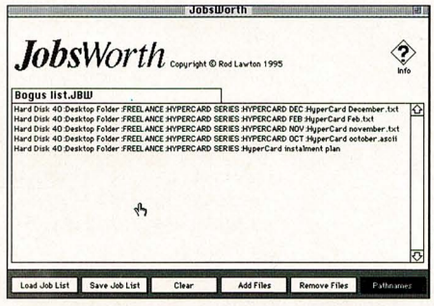
NEED TO KNOW...

If you need to store information in your stacks but you don't want people to see it, just hide the field containing it. You can still refer to it and its contents in scripts!

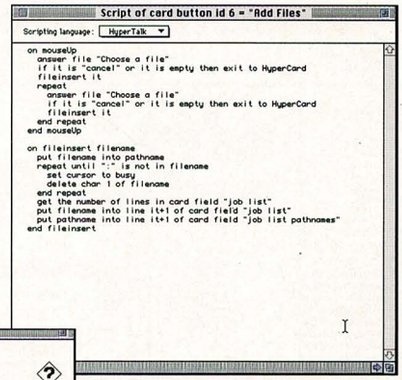
Continued on next page



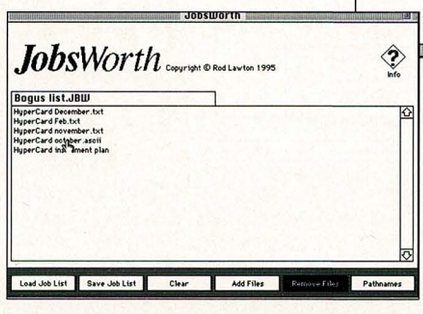
This is my list of the last half-dozen or so *HyperCard* columns in raw text form. They're all kept in different places, but I can open any of them from here.



If you need to know exactly where the files on your lists are kept, click on the Pathnames button – this lists each successive directory and sub-directory your files are buried in.


Script of card button id 6 = "Add Files"
Scripting language: HyperTalk
on mouseUp
answer file "Choose a file"
if it is "cancel" or it is empty then exit to HyperCard
fileinsert it
repeat
answer file "Choose a file"
if it is "cancel" or it is empty then exit to HyperCard
fileinsert it
end repeat
end mouseUp
on fileinsert filename
put filename into pathname
repeat until ":" is not in filename
set cursor to busy
delete char 1 of filename
end repeat
get the number of lines in card field "job list"
put filename into line it+1 of card field "job list"
put pathname into line it+1 of card field "job list pathnames"
end fileinsert

There is no command for getting just the name of a file (rather than its full pathname) so this handy sub-routine, `on fileinsert filename`, does the job the quick and dirty way.



If you need to remove any files from your list, click the Remove button and then click on the file you want to remove.

you don't have to go searching for the application to open it with. If you click on a file that you haven't opened from within *JobsWorth* before, you're prompted to choose an application. But once you've done that, that application becomes the default and the operation becomes semi-automatic.

Clearly, these three fields (filenames, pathnames and applications) are closely related. The information for a specific file will always be on the same line in each field. For example, the file on line three of the filenames field will have its full pathname on line three of the pathnames field, and its chosen application on line three of the applications field.

How to use it

There's really not much to know. You can create new lists, save them, and load and edit old ones. Clicking on any filename in the list will open it with the application of your choice, and clicking on the Pathnames button will tell you exactly where to find it.

If this seems a little brief, don't worry. There are instructions within the program, so once it's up and running you can't go too far wrong. If you experience any problems, write them down and send them to me via the usual address. **MF**

STACKS OF PROBLEMS

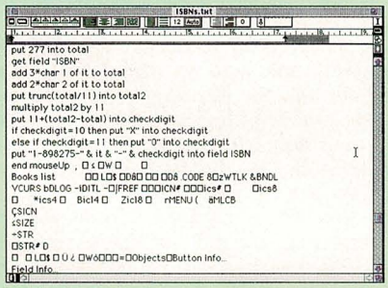
JUST FOR YOU

On this month's CD-ROM you'll find the stand-alone utility of *JobsWorth*. You can use this independently of *HyperCard*. Unfortunately, because space on the floppy disk is limited, there's only room for the *HyperCard* stack version. (Stand-alone *HyperCard* applications come out at around 800K when the necessary run-time code is added.)

NEXT MONTH

More help, more news (a new version of *HyperCard*?), and another ground-breaking *HyperCard* application supplied on the cover disk...

Last month on MACFORMAT's CD-ROM we gave you the stand-alone *HyperCard* application *LastDitch*. MACFORMAT reader Lawrence Baron has discovered what he thinks is a problem with this program, while Ranulph Glanville and Robin McKinnon-Wood, MACFORMAT readers from the University of Portsmouth, are having trouble merging stacks. Rod Lawton has the answers.

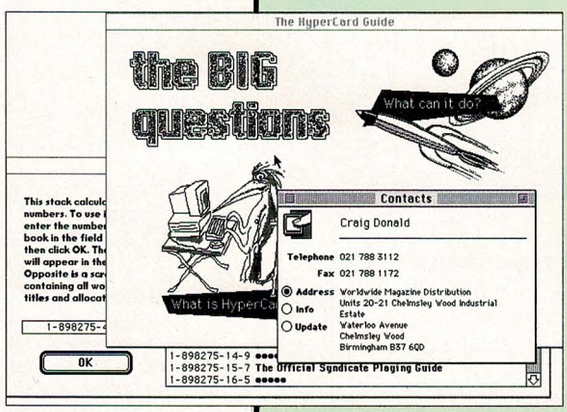

ISBNs.txt
put 277 into total
get field "ISBN"
add 3*char 1 of it to total
add 2*char 2 of it to total
put trunc(total/11) into total2
multiply total2 by 11
put 11+(total2-total) into checkdigit
if checkdigit=10 then put "X" into checkdigit
else if checkdigit=11 then put "0" into checkdigit
put "1-898275-"& it & "-"& checkdigit into field ISBN
end mouseUp
Books list
Field Info...

This is what I got when I opened one of my stacks with *LastDitch* – gibberish. But somewhere in there is real ASCII text – you've just got to find it.

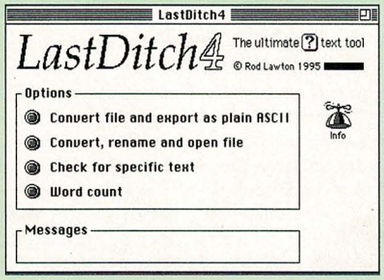
LastDitch latest

Thank you for making LastDitch *available through* MACFORMAT. *I had the opportunity to use it and I have a feeling I found a bug – or more probably over-stretched it somewhat. I wrote a six-card stack that included mainly text entries. I decided that I only needed the text from this stack so I opened it with* LastDitch. *Of course, it loaded it (via the Load Anything button). Unfortunately,* LastDitch *also loaded what must be the file for the Wastebasket because at the end of the loaded stack there was a list of file names I'd just trashed!*

Lawrence Baron
Italy



'Merging' stacks is practically impossible because of their different sizes, conflicting handlers and other nightmares (see 'Merging Stacks').



The latest version of *LastDitch* – on last month's disk. Is it too powerful for its own good?

Well, it's not a bug. In fact, it's more of an 'undocumented feature'! I've said in the past in MACFORMAT that the HyperTalk file opening and reading commands are very powerful – and they are. I'm not sure, but I believe they read the disk sector by sector and a very low level.

What this means is that you will not only read the file you chose but, quite often, junk left behind by other files and Mac activities. Different software organises its files in different ways. *QuarkXPress* files seem to have lots of old junk mixed in with them (although of course it's invisible in normal use), and *MicroSoft Word's* 'fast save' option saves text that isn't even necessarily in sequential order! It will also depend on how badly fragmented your disk is, how much spare space there is and probably other factors too.

It's worth stressing that this is only a *LastDitch* phenomenon. It won't happen with your normal everyday software. *LastDitch* is very powerful and will let you extract ASCII text from practically anything. What it won't guarantee is that it'll be terribly neat about just how it does it.

Incidentally, *LastDitch4* is the latest and best version. It enables you to use your own word processor to view files and has options to make file conversion faster and neater than before. And it's on last month's cover disk! **RL**

Merging stacks

How do you import cards or even whole stacks into another stack? We might have two separate stacks that we want to combine (some or all of the cards), or we might have an upgrade to the stack that adds new features or deals with bugs. We can find nothing in our reference manuals, and adding cards in one at a time to an improved, second stack (copy and paste) doesn't work. (The problem is that the imported card comes not as data, but with its own background – the data does not transfer to the new background.)

Ranulph Glanville
and Robin McKinnon-Wood
University of Portsmouth

This is a tricky one because the ability to merge stacks is not built into *HyperCard* – this is presumably because there are too many potential clashes between handlers and scripts in the two stacks, not to mention differences in card sizes and a host of other nightmares.

The answer here might be to step back and consider working differently:

1. If you have two stacks you want to combine, set up buttons to link them instead of trying to combine them physically. And with two separate stacks you can keep two windows open at once.
2. Don't try to upgrade existing stacks, simply replace them with newer versions. You'll have to develop the upgrades and bug fixes on the old stack anyway and as far as I can see you'll have to send users an update disk either way, so you might as well put a whole new stack on it.
3. If you want to transfer data from one stack to another, you'll either have to copy and paste field contents manually between the two or work out a short HyperTalk routine to do it automatically for a number of cards. Try this:

```
repeat with i=1 to the number ¬
of cards
  put field 'data' of card i ¬
  of stack 'old version' into ¬
  field 'data' of card i of ¬
  stack 'new version'
end repeat
```

RL

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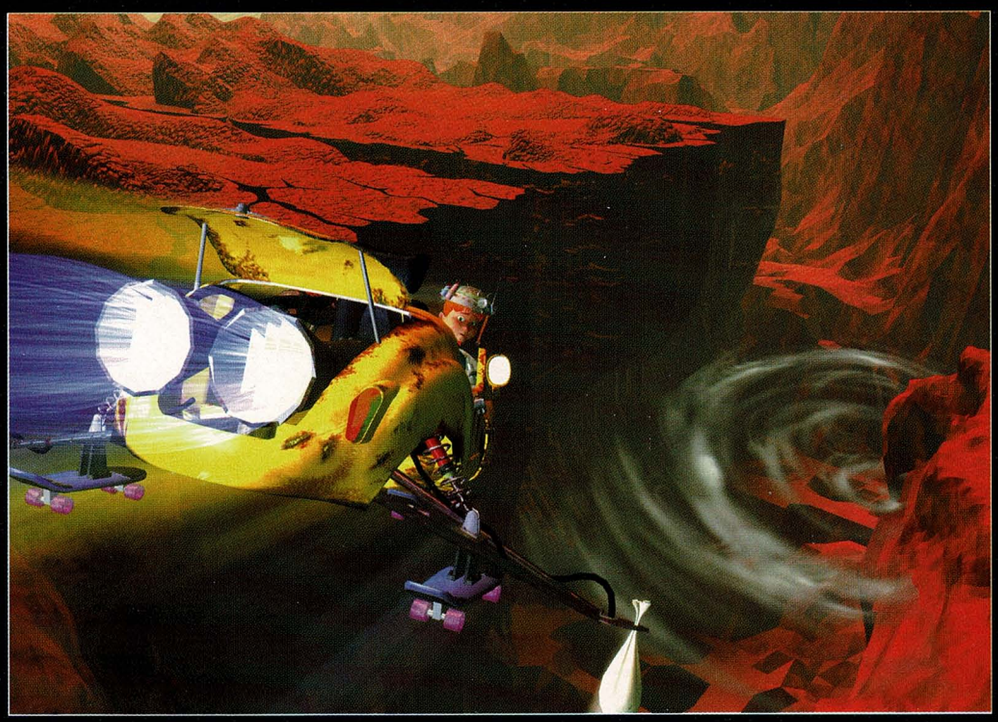
4D4

Amazing.



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MAC ANSWERS

Spontaneously crashing Mac? Software won't work, whatever you do? Want to take a hammer to your hardware? Drop our experts a line and put a smile back on the face of your Mac.

Welcome to MacAnswers. Here to solve all your problems (well, the Mac ones at least) are Jim Chandler, Stuart McHugh, Bob Dorman, and Derek Smith. Use the form on page 86 to tell us what's wrong, and we'll do our best to help. But please note that we are unable to answer queries over the phone.

Picture that

STARTUP

Q *How do you make the 'Welcome to Macintosh' sign disappear at startup and replace it with your own picture and message?*
Paul Kass
London SW6

A Any picture you want can be made to appear during startup. Some graphic programs such as *SuperPaint* can save files in the special format needed. But if your art package doesn't, don't worry.

Save the picture you want displayed at startup in a standard format, such as PICT, then use the shareware program *GraphicConverter* (on this month's cover disk) to re-save it as a startup screen.

Note that the file must be named exactly 'StartupScreen'. You then pop this loose into your System Folder (not Startup Items) and restart your Mac. **DS**

Not my type

FONTS

Q *In the 'Type 3' folder of* MACFORMAT *17's covermounted CD-ROM 'Font Spectacular was a delicious font called* Theatre. *It prints beautifully from* Word 5.1 *in sizes up to 72 point, although the screen image is dreadful even with* Adobe Type Manager. *However, it won't print from my other favourite program,* PageMaker 5.0. *Is there a solution to this?*
Simon Dunmore
St Albans, Hertfordshire

A The problem lies with Type 3 PostScript fonts. Before Adobe published the format of its Type 1 font standard, many third party fonts were created in the (different) Type 3 format – a few are still knocking around as shareware. It's not worth going into the differences between the two formats here, except to say that Type 1 fonts work with *Adobe Type Manager* and *PageMaker 5*, and that Type 3 fonts have caused problems.

ATM has never supported Type 3 fonts, and it was widely believed that *PageMaker 5* didn't either. In fact, the problem was with Apple's LaserWriter v8 driver – there was a bug in it. If you update your LaserWriter driver to version 8.1.1 or later, then you should be okay. **JC**

Of Pentiums past

HARDWARE

Q *I use a Pentium 90 PC in addition to a PowerMac 7100/66. So far I have figured out that I can use any SCSI device with my PC, but how compatible are these things with my Mac? The same goes for any ordinary modem. Is it usable as long as it's external? Are the PowerMac computers so close to the PC world that I can buy used PC RAM for half the price?*
Håkon Birkeland
Haugesund, Norway

A All Macs have a SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface) port built in. It enables you to attach hard drives, CD-ROM drives and other peripherals. Although not usually built in to PCs, SCSI can be added using an internal card.

SCSI is supposed to be machine independent. In other words, a SCSI device should work with any computer with a SCSI port. There is a catch, of course, which is that you will probably need some kind of software driver. This tells the computer what the SCSI device is and how to work it. If you've got the relevant Mac and PC drivers for your SCSI gear, it ought to work with either machine.

This doesn't mean that all devices are interchangeable. If you use a hard disk

Continued on next page

STARTUP TIP

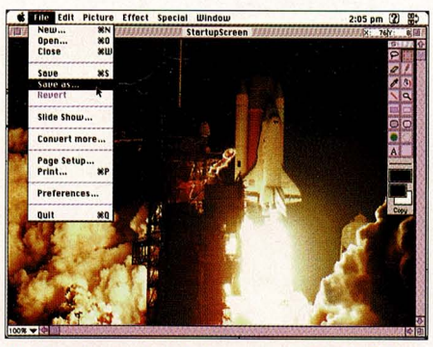
If your Mac comes with the System on CD rather than floppies, you can boot from the CD by holding down **[command] [shift] [option]** and **[delete]** at startup.

FIND TIP

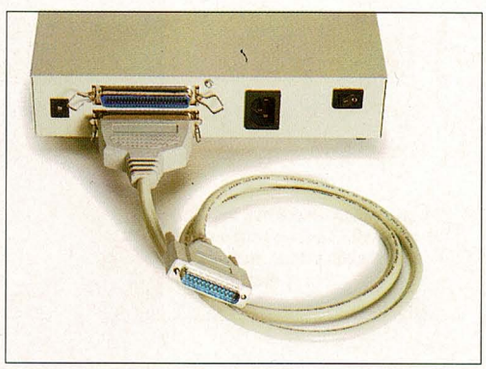
When using the new **Find** command in System 7.5, hold down the **[option]** key when you go to the first pull-down menu to discover some advanced tools.

GET ON WITH IT TIP

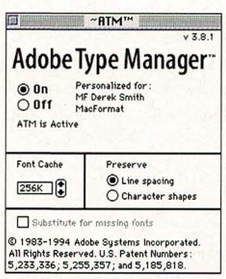
Sometimes your Mac will ask you to insert a floppy disk that you don't have. To get rid of the message, press **[command]** . (that's [command] [full stop]). You may need to do this several times before it gets the idea.



We often place readers' startup screens on the CD. This one was included on the MACFORMAT 23 CD, and here I have opened it with *GraphicConverter*.



SCSI devices like this scanner can be connected to a PC or a Mac, as long as you have the driver software!



ATM is usually great for giving smooth type outlines, but it doesn't support Type 3 PostScript fonts.

SNAPPY TIP

When moving icons you can make them snap to an invisible grid by holding down **[command]**. If **Snap to Grid** is already selected from the Views Control Panel, holding down **[command]** has the opposite effect.

FILENAME TIP

Don't give any files or folders a name beginning with a full stop. It can confuse your Mac into thinking that it is a software driver.

MOVING TIP

To move a window without bringing it to the front, hold down the **[command]** key as you drag its title bar.

with your PC and then plug it into your Mac, it won't just appear on the Desktop because Macs can't recognise hard disks formatted for a PC. You can, of course, reformat the hard disk to work with a Mac, but you'll lose all the data.

For CD-ROM drives, optical disk drives, scanners and the like, your SCSI gear should work, provided you get the software drivers. It's worth talking to the manufacturers of the SCSI devices first. They should be able to tell you whether the drivers you need are available.

Modems are similar. If you've got a normal external modem that attaches to your PC or Mac via a serial cable, then using it with the other machine *should* be a matter of simply attaching the right cable and firing up your communications software. But *some* PC modems won't work with Macs, and vice versa, so check first. And be sure to get the right modem cable. Note that modems that attach to the Mac via the Apple Desktop Bus won't be compatible with your PC.

Memory is tricky. PowerMacs, and most PCs, use 72-pin SIMMs for their memory. However, PCs usually need nine-chip SIMMs, as opposed to the Mac's eight-chip SIMMs. The extra chip in the PC is for parity checking – to spot memory problems. As a rule, it's probably best just to buy PC memory for your PC and Mac memory for your Mac. **JC**

Particularly correct

COMPATIBILITY

Q I have just started high school where they only have IBM-compatible PCs. I have started to experiment with PC software with the aid of PC Exchange *without much success. Please could you explain what it is possible to do between the two computers.*

Paul Butterworth
Northwich, Cheshire

A There are two levels of compatibility between the Mac and a PC. The basic level is to use *PC Exchange*, and the step up from that is *SoftPC* or *SoftWindows*.

PC Exchange is Apple's own software. It enables a floppy disk that's formatted for a PC to be inserted into a Mac. Any files on the disk will appear as icons on the Desktop in the usual Mac way.

The important point to understand is that this process merely enables you to access PC data files, such as text or graphics. You cannot run any PC programs this way. Also, the data must be compatible with the Mac. For instance, if you try to open a picture, it must have been saved in a format that your Mac can open, such as TIFF.

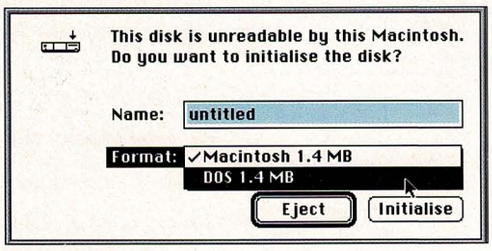
The most likely use of *PC Exchange* for you is to transfer word processing files. The process would go like this:

1. Insert a blank floppy disk into your Mac.
2. From the dialogue box that automatically appears, format it as a PC disk.
3. Write your work in your Mac word processor.
4. Select **Save As** or **Export** from the **File** menu and save the document onto the floppy in text or RTF format.
5. Insert the floppy disk in a PC at school. You should be able to open the text file into a word processor and make changes.
6. Save it as a text file back onto the floppy, and you'll be able to re-open it on your Mac.

PC Exchange is available from any Apple dealer for around £35, but if you want a copy your best bet is to upgrade to System 7.5, as *PC Exchange* is included.

If you want more than data exchange, then you'll need full emulation. This is achieved with *SoftPC* or *SoftWindows*, both from Insignia Solutions (tel: 01494 459426). *SoftPC* (around £120) enables you to run MS-DOS programs, and *SoftWindows* (around £350) runs Microsoft Windows programs on your Mac. Effectively your Mac becomes a PC and can do everything a PC can – like crash even more often than a Mac...

The only problem that you'll have with your LCIII is that it's not powerful enough to run *SoftWindows*; that requires a Quadra or PowerPC. Of course, you could always just tell your school to buy Macs in the future. **DS**



Once *PC Exchange* is installed on your Mac, you get the option of formatting blank floppies as PC disks.

Ultimate quality

PRINTING

Q 1. What is the best way to get the ultimate quality graphics print-out from my Hewlett-Packard DeskWriter 560C using Painter*? Is it best to start out by producing a 300dpi graphic, or does the quality suffer if I produce a 75dpi graphic and then resize it to 300dpi?*

2. Does the fact that I only have enough VRAM for 256 colours affect output? If I upgraded to thousands of colours would I be able to print more colours? Surely I would be better able to adjust colours on screen?

3. Would quality improve if I invested in HP's PostScript Driver for the 560C or alternative driver software such as Freedom of Press*?*

4. Would Apple's ColorSync extension improve on my current set-up of using HP's Driver version 6.0?

5. I know the quality is good on HP's glossy paper, but are there other types of paper that produce such quality results and which would print on both sides? (HP's glossy paper only prints on one side.)

Bo Walker
Crouch End, London

A 1. It's important to remember that the output from a file will only be as good as the items that go into it. Since your DeskWriter 560C is a 300dpi machine, it makes sense to work at that resolution. If you import a 75dpi file, you can do one of two things. You can shrink it in size by three quarters so it becomes a small 300dpi picture. This, although small, will be high quality. Or you can leave it the same size and have a larger picture, but at poorer quality.

2. VRAM has nothing to do with the quality of printed output; it's only con-

We reviewed the DeskWriter 560C in MACFORMAT 23, where it came out on top of the competition, receiving a massive 94%.

SAVING CD MUSIC ON YOUR MAC

Many thanks to Keith Lewington of Reading who sent in this method of saving tracks from an audio CD onto a hard disk with no extra software. Here's what to do...

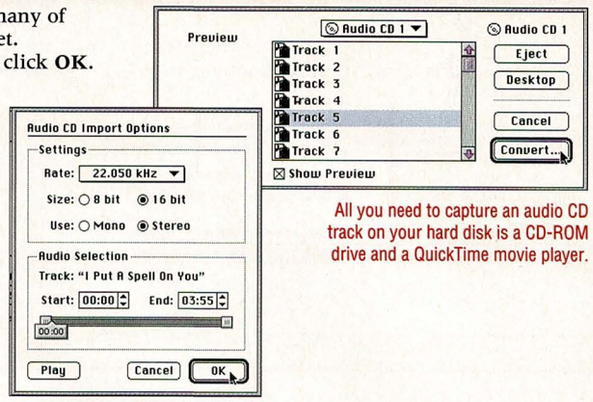
1. Insert an audio CD into the CD-ROM player, then open any QuickTime movie player (including *Peter's Player*, which was on one of the MACFORMAT 21 floppies).

2. Choose **Open** from the **File** menu and highlight the desired track from your audio CD. Click on the **Convert** button.

3. Click on the **Options** button and choose from the various quality settings. You can even play the track from here, but note that the sound will come through the sound port at the back of your Mac, not directly from the CD player. This is useful to know for those people who have built-in CD-ROM drives, many of which do not have a headphone socket.

4. When you've adjusted the settings, click **OK**. From the next window choose where you want to save the file and click **Save**. You'll now have a QuickTime movie containing just the sound track. Beware that even at a low sampling rate, a four minute song takes 2Mb of hard disk space.

5. You can convert these QuickTime movies into standard sound files that System 7 uses in its Sound Control Panel. You'll need a program like *Movie2Snd* (on the cover disk). These files can also be launched by double-clicking them.



All you need to capture an audio CD track on your hard disk is a CD-ROM drive and a QuickTime movie player.

cerned with the screen display. In this case, you would indeed have a better idea of subtle colour differences on screen if you had extra colours.

3. PostScript interpreters for the DeskWriter would only make a difference if you were printing PostScript files, or EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) graphics.

4. The purpose of Apple's ColorSync is to help printed output match what you see on screen. But the HP printer driver has its own colour-matching system, so ColorSync probably won't make a difference.

5. Inkjets perform best with glossy paper, and colour inkjets really need it for good quality output. Most glossy papers will improve quality, but as for printing on both sides, it's worth considering how much ink gets put on the page during printing. When both sides have been covered, the paper will be soaked in ink! **JC**

Go Slow

FRAGMENTATION

When I try to optimise my hard drive with Norton Utilities 2 Speed Disk, *it tells me it can't because the Desktop DF file is open, and it suggests I start my Mac with the floppy disk. But the Mac will not start with the applications disk – it says that it's not a startup disk. What do I do, and how do I close the Desktop DF file?*

Simon Turton
Allerton, Liverpool

A *Speed Disk* is a utility that defragments hard disks by joining files together and rearranging them. This helps speed up your machine a little. In order to do this, all of those files need to be closed. Even if you don't have any applications open, the Desktop file of the startup disk is always open. Therefore you can't defragment your hard disk.

The Desktop is an invisible file on your hard drive which contains all the data about what windows you have open, and what icons they have. The only way not to have this file open is to start up from another disk. The reason you can't start up from an applications disk is because it doesn't have any System software on it. Boot from the Emergency Disk instead.

This will mean that the Desktop file on the floppy disk will be open; the Desktop file on your hard drive won't be. As no files whatever are open on your hard drive, it can be defragmented.

If you have *Norton Utilities 3* you will have a little extra hassle. You'll need to create a startup disk for *Speed Disk*. Once you've inserted the *Speed Disk* program disk and launched the program, select **Startup Disk Builder** from the **Utilities** menu. Have a blank floppy disk ready to become your startup disk. **DS**

Buy cell

HARDWARE

I turned on my LC a couple of weeks ago to find that all the setup was wrong. The colour had reverted to black and white, the time and date were wrong, it didn't know the printer was connected, sound volume was low, and many others things were wrong.

Dave Riley
Rotherhithe, London

A It is almost certainly due to a PRAM (Parameter RAM) problem. The

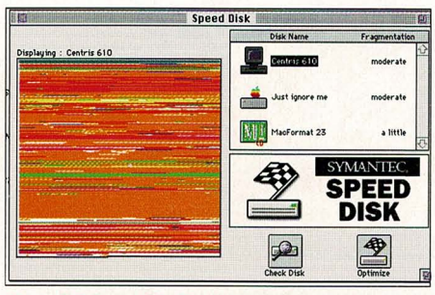
Continued on next page

WINDOW TIP

To make a window fill the screen, hold down **[option]** and click the zoom box in the top right-hand corner.

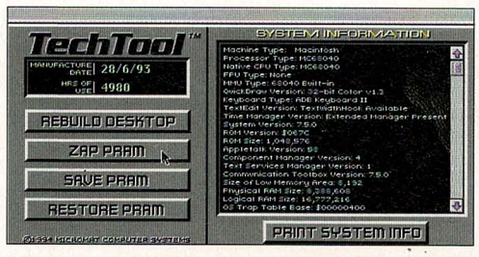
RUBBISH TIP

If your Wastebasket refuses to empty because some of the files are locked, select **Empty Wastebasket** with the **[option]** key held down.



Norton Utilities and *MacTools* include software to defragment and optimise your hard drive.

'This fragmentation is worse than I thought...'



TechTool is the easiest and most thorough way of zapping your Mac's PRAM (Parameter RAM).

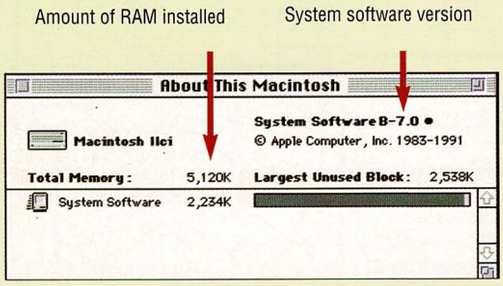
The do-it-yourself problem solving guide...

One of the main causes of problems on the Mac is Extensions or Control Panels clashing in the depths of your System Folder. Fortunately, it's easy to check if this is the case. Restart your Mac and hold down the [shift] key. You can let go of the key when you see the message 'Welcome to Macintosh. Extensions off'.

If everything now works, then the problem lies in your System Folder. The only way to work out which item is the culprit is by trial and error. Remove a few Extensions and or Control Panels, then restart your Mac. Keep going until the problem no longer occurs, and you have located the offending software.

If this doesn't work, another common solution is to rebuild your Desktop. Start up your Mac with [command] and [option] held down. You will get a message asking if you want to rebuild the Desktop. Click OK and see if this solves your problem.

If the problem persists then use the form below to ask our experts. We'll need to know a few facts about your Mac, so when you're in the Finder, select About This Macintosh from the Apple Menu. The picture (left) shows what we'll need to know.



'...and if you press Option, W, R, K, it automatically trashes the hotel room.'

PRAM is a special area of memory that's powered by a battery so that it doesn't lose its settings when the Mac is switched off. It holds information on the sort of things that you describe.

Although the battery probably needs replacing, the first thing to do is to try resetting it. Use *TechTool*, which was on the MACFORMAT 18 floppy disk, or restart your Mac with **[option] [command] [P]** and **[R]** held down until you hear a chime.

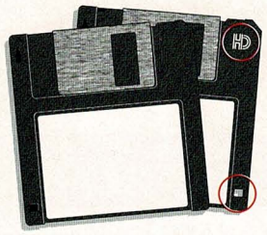
If this doesn't work, then you'll need to buy a new battery. They aren't too dear and any Mac dealer should have one. On many models of Mac, the battery simply slots in – in which case you can fit it yourself. But on some, it's soldered in place. If you're unsure about doing this yourself, take your Mac along to the dealer with you and ask him to do it. **DS**

Indiscriminate disk drives

FLOPPY DISKS

***Q** I've been getting mixed results when transferring files from my friend's Mac Plus to my LC475. Occasionally, disks that work in his Mac refuse to work in mine, and vice versa. However, there doesn't appear to be any pattern.*

Danielle Di Lieto
Olney, Buckinghamshire



If a disk has this second hole, your Mac knows it's a *high* density disk. not a *double* density disk.

A The problem here is that there are two varieties of floppy disks, DD (double density disks, which hold around 700K of data) and HD (high density disks, which hold around 1,400K). Older Macs like the Plus are unable to read or write to high density disks.

Macs tell the difference between HD and DD disks by detecting the extra hole on an HD disk that's opposite the write-protect slot. This enables the computer to 'know' how to read the disk.

If an HD disk is inserted into a Mac Plus, the Mac will say that the disk is unreadable, and it'll offer to reformat it. If you do, it will format it as a DD disk, and it will work quite happily. But if you then put that disk into an LC475, it will detect the extra hole, try to use it as a HD disk, find DD formatting, get completely confused, and fail.

The simple way around this is to use only DD disks in the Plus. If you have vital data on an HD disk that the Plus formatted to a DD disk, all is not lost. Here's what to do: carefully put some tape across the extra hole, and insert the disk into the LC475. Because the extra hole is covered, your Mac will treat it as a DD disk and be able to read it. Please make sure that you do a tidy job of this, as excess tape can cause the drive to jam when you try to eject the disk. **BD**

If you send in a question for the MACFORMAT experts to solve, please fill in and include this form (or a copy of it). And please make sure that you include all the relevant details – version numbers of software and so on – so that we have the best chance of helping you.
Send your form and question to:
Mac Answers, MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. Or fax it to us on 01225 446019.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Your Mac
(For example, Performa 200, IIfx, PowerBook 145):

.....

System version
(see About this Macintosh screenshot above): .....

Amount of RAM
(see About this Macintosh screenshot above): .....

Are you using Virtual Memory? .....**YES/NO**
(This is accessed from the Memory Control Panel under System 7)

Do you have 32-bit addressing turned on? .....**YES/NO**
(This is accessed from the Memory Control Panel under System 7)

Details of any relevant hardware which could help us to answer your question:

.....

.....

Now, use this space to describe your problem or question. Include as much relevant information as possible. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

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Sunday 23rd April ☐

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☐ Postal order ☐ Visa ☐ Access

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Expiry date ☐☐☐☐

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Date _____

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01369 707888

In living colour

A colour picture can transform any average Mac-generated page into a great one. Clive Parker tests out six of the most affordable A4 colour scanners currently available.

Whether you're using your Mac for professional DTP with *QuarkXPress* and *Photoshop*, or just producing the club or parish newsletter with *ClarisWorks*, you know that a page with a good illustration looks 1,000% better than a page of plain text. And a colour illustration looks probably that much better than mere black and white pictures on a page. The only dilemma is: how do you get decent-quality illustrations onto your page in the first place?

You can do them yourself, of course – *if* you can afford a graphics tablet or can master drawing with a mouse. You can rely on CD-ROMs of ready-made clip art or PhotoCDs of stock images – and indeed there are plenty available, many of them of very acceptable quality. But what if you've had an original cartoon done for you, or a photograph, or want to use a previously-published page to show what you've done before? How do you get these onto your page? Of course, you use a scanner to capture it in digital form.

Until recently, the only way for a small DTP business or home user to get colour scans into their Macs was to use a scanning bureau. It wasn't cheap, but it was cheaper than buying the equipment yourself. Now the prices of high resolution, 24-bit colour scanners have fallen enough for even those on a modest budget to be able to afford them. And the best news is, they're pretty easy to use, too.

There are two main types of scanner: hand-helds and flatbeds. Hand-helds are fine for rough 'positionals', but they are tricky to use for final art: you can only scan in thin strips which you then have to 'paste' together to make up a complete image, and the quality of the scan depends greatly on how steadily you can drag the scanner over the original.

The scanners tested here are all flatbed devices (except one odd one) and all can scan a document of at least A4 dimensions. There are many retailers competing to sell you scanners, so if you shop around you should be able to get any of the models here, or near equivalents, for less than the recommended price quoted.

You may think that one scanner is very much like another, but things never seem to work out as simply as that. Although the documentation with most of the scanners claimed they work with 4Mb of RAM in your Mac, you should really consider 8Mb as a bare minimum. After all, this kind of hardware is intended for use with a reasonably high-spec Mac. In all cases, lots of hard drive space is needed because scanned images at high resolutions create huge files, and the hard drive is used as temporary storage by most of the software.

So, on to the tests. We used a printed image with a deliberately dark background to test the contrast and colour balance of the scanners (see page 98). The scans were made at 144 dpi, twice the resolution of the monitor.

As an alternative to the flatbed, the hand-held scanner is fine for scanning for rough positional alignment, but is not really suitable for high standard publishing.

OCR

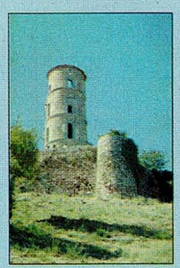
One of the uses of a scanner is to scan in faxes or typed documents, then use OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software to turn them into text you can edit in your own word processor. For more details on OCR, see MACFORMAT 19.

The Nikon ScanTouch has a transparency unit available as an optional extra.

TRANSPARENCY UNITS

With some flatbed scanners you can get additional hardware to scan photographic transparencies and negatives. This addition is normally in the form of a replacement lid for the scanner which includes a light source to illuminate transparencies from behind.

I tested the optional transparency unit that came with the Umax VistaScan. I tried the unit at several scanning resolutions. At 2,400 dpi I ended up with a 47Mb 24-bit image file for a 35mm negative. Scanning at lower resolutions and converting to 8-bit images, I managed to get the file size down to a much more manageable 1.5Mb. Generally the results were very good, but a fair amount of practice with colour balance and saturation is required to get a decent scan from a photographic negative.



We used the Umax VistaScan to scan some negatives. This is Chateau Grimaud near St Tropez scanned at 1,200 dpi direct from a negative from my holiday snaps.

SLIGHTLY TECHIE BIT

A scanner works in a similar way to a photocopier. The scanning head shines light onto the document being scanned. The light is reflected back to photoreceptors made up of an array of CCDs – Charge Coupled Devices. The CCDs are sensitive to the intensity of the reflected light and adjust the voltage output accordingly. Got it so far?

These voltages are converted into data which is squirted to the scanning software. Different levels of voltage are converted into lighter and darker image data. In this way the image is built up. A colour scan is normally made in three passes, one each for the red, green and blue image data. All three scans are merged together to generate the complete image. Simple, really.

SICOS Page Scanner

SICOS Page Scanner

Price: £410.00.
Requires: Any colour Mac with at least 4Mb of RAM.
For more details contact Harwoods on 01773 836781 or Devcom on 01324 825005 (Europe).

Features 85%
Compact, with the only disadvantage of being a sheet-feed device.

Ease of use 80%
Software and scanner are easy to use.

Documentation 60%
Sparse documentation but informative.

Value for money 82%
Good results at a nice price.

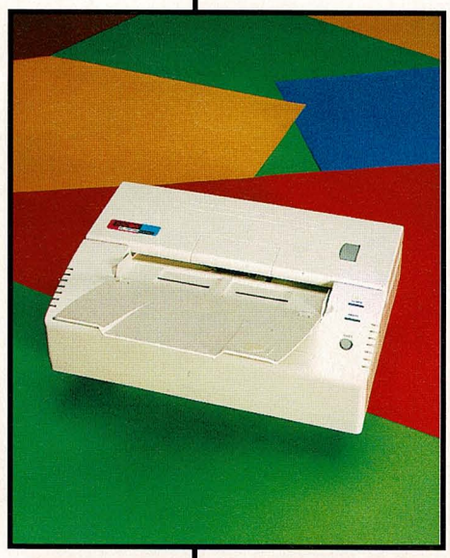
MACFORMAT RATING 77%

As you can see, the SICOS isn't a flatbed scanner, and looks more like a printer. The main difference between a conventional flat-bed and the SICOS is the manual image feed required. It takes up less room on your desk and is less expensive than a flatbed scanner, but there are some disadvantages you may want to consider before you buy it.

Setting up is painless enough. A single SCSI port on the scanner means that you must place the scanner last in the SCSI chain, and a through terminator is supplied. A SCSI ID switch ensures you can set the scanner to fit in with your other SCSI devices.

The SICOS has a choice of software. The stand-alone *Colour Station Pro* software is good, if not brilliant, and enables you to get pretty good scans at up to 1,200 dpi. There's also a *Photoshop* plug-in enabling you to scan images directly into *Adobe Photoshop*. An OCR package is also supplied with the scanner. *EasyReader* takes a little tweaking, but once up and running it's a great way of scanning text.

In use, the SICOS scanner has a couple of annoying features that make it a bit harder to use than a flatbed scanner. First, you can only scan documents bigger than 2 inches by 3 inches in size. And second, if you want to perform a prescan, so you can set up crops or zooms on a document, you have to feed the document in twice – once for the prescan and again for the actual scan. This can slow down your work rate and may be a bit hit-and-miss. Finally, it's common practice to scan two or more small items on a flatbed scanner, something that's impossible with the SICOS. Despite these relatively minor drawbacks, the SICOS is a good scanner that gives great results.



For Mac users who only require limited access to a scanning facility, the SICOS could just be the answer to their dreams. It's fully functional, simple to use and at just over £400 quid very affordable.

Apple Color One

Apple Color OneScanner

Price: £632.15.
Requires: Colour Mac with system 7.0.1 or later, at least 4Mb of RAM (8Mb recommended) and 10Mb of hard drive space. QuickTime is recommended.
For more details contact Gasteiner Technologies on 0181 345 6000.

Features 82%
Good software, easy to install.

Ease of use 86%
No difficulty whatsoever – piece of cake.

Documentation 85%
As always, Apple's docs are first rate.

Value for money 84%
A more than fair price for a more than fair scanner.

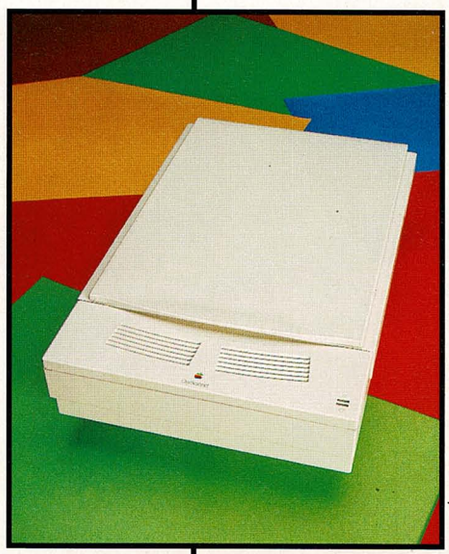
MACFORMAT RATING 84%

Apple's Color OneScanner is the best looking scanner of the bunch, obviously designed to complement the Mac perfectly. The other flatbeds are designed for use with the PC as well as the Mac, and are functional rather than Mac specific. And, the OneScanner is the only scanner apart from the Nikon that can scan documents larger than A4. It can cope with Legal A4 documents 8.5 inches by 14 inches in size.

As you'd expect, adding the scanner to your system is easy. Twin SCSI ports ensure the scanner can sit anywhere in the SCSI chain. A standard SCSI ID switcher enables you to adjust the ID to suit your setup. The only reservation I have with the hardware side of things is that the Apple Color OneScanner is the only device tested that isn't supplied with a SCSI lead or SCSI terminator as standard.

Setting up the scanner is made easy by the usual superb standard of the manual, a normal feature with Apple equipment. Full instructions are provided for setting up the hardware and installing the *Ofoto* scanning software. In addition to detailed instructions, a set of detailed appendices explain how to troubleshoot software and hardware problems and set up a SCSI chain.

The software is supplied on two disks and uses a standard Apple installation program, so it's easy to get it up and running. The *Ofoto* scanning software has all the options you'd expect to find in a professional graphics package. The ability to crop, rotate, alter the colour balance, saturation and hue makes it easy for the Apple Color OneScanner to produce top quality scans at up to 1,200 dpi. Some of the options aren't as intuitive as they might have been, but that's a small cross to bear for top quality software of this kind.



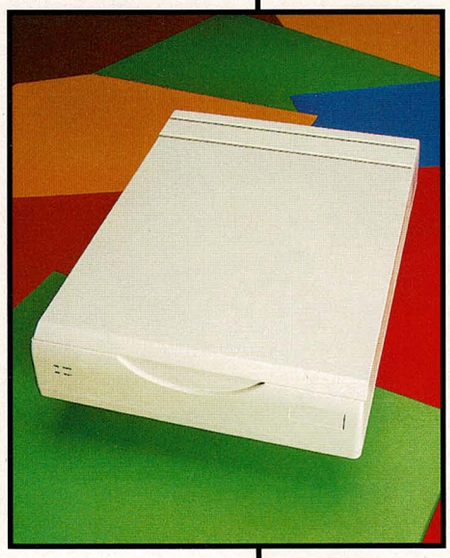
As with all official Apple software, it only takes a small amount of practice to get perfect results. Add to that the low cost of this scanner, and we've got ourselves a great deal here. The Apple Color OneScanner is highly recommended.

Continued on next page

Relisys Scanner

The Relisys is an impressive looking and powerful flatbed scanner. Although it's as large as the Nikon, the maximum scanning size is a standard A4 page.

The documentation comes in the shape of an informative A5 20-page manual, which satisfactorily explains the setting up of the software and the hardware itself.



On the hardware side, the Relisys lacks some of the features which should be standard on any scanner. First of all, there's no SCSI ID switch – the scanner is pre-set to SCSI ID 5. This can be a nuisance if you already have another SCSI device on your system set to this ID. Power up with two IDs the same and you can cause problems with your system. I found the ID number by using *SCSI Probe* control panel, after removing all my other SCSI devices from the chain. There's only a single SCSI port, which means that the scanner must be the last device on the chain. There are no internal terminators, but a through terminator is supplied with the SCSI lead. On the bright side, a huge tag guides you to the retaining bolt (as worn by C3PO and R2D2), so there's no real chance of you leaving it in place.

The installation software included with the Relisys scanner is adequate and it needs to be, especially as there are three versions of the scanning software for PowerMac, Macs with FPUs and Macs without FPUs.

The *Art-Scan* scanning software is quite complex, with lots of buttons, boxes and menu options to choose from. It's a good idea to choose the default options when you first start using it. You'll get good results, with the scanner capable of scanning up to 4,800 dpi. *Art-Scan* is a *Photoshop* plug-in, and a version of *Photoshop 3* is included too. The main problem with the Relisys is that it's slow, even when set to the fastest, lowest image quality mode. Still, the software isn't hard to use, and you'll be able to achieve some good results.

Relisys Scanner

Price: £703.83.
Requires: Any colour Mac with at least 8Mb RAM and *Adobe Photoshop* (version 3 supplied).
For more details contact Mac Europe on 01603 741222.

Features 75%
Software versions for PowerMac, FPU and non-FPU Macs.

Ease of use 72%
Just plug in and go, basically.

Documentation 70%
Docs are more than adequate.

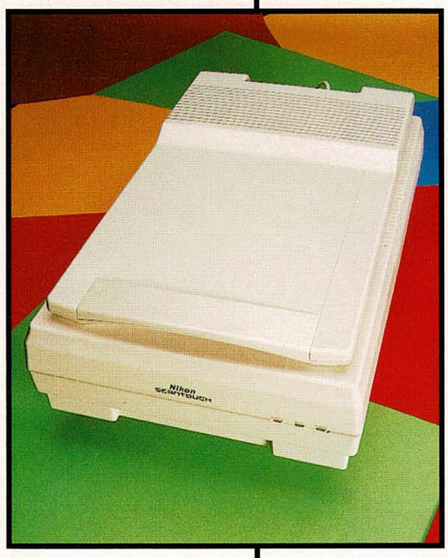
Value for money 75%
Mixed results, but at a very affordable price.

MACFORMAT RATING 73%

Nikon ScanTouch

The Nikon ScanTouch scanner is certainly a rugged looking beast. It's a chunky flatbed scanner built to heroic scale – it looks big enough to scan an A3 document. It can't cope with documents of that size, but it's capable of scanning documents up to 8.5 inches (216mm) by 14 inches (356mm).

The scanning resolution can be set to any level up to 565 x 1,200 dpi, but using the scanners's hardware interpolation, high resolution scans of 1,200 x 1,200 dpi can be achieved. This means you can get good results when scanning from high quality images like photographic negatives or transparencies using the optional transparency unit.



The scanning software for the Nikon is a plug-in module for *Adobe Photoshop* – version 2.5 is supplied with the scanner, so getting going was just a matter of installing the software and getting the scanner set up.

Setting up the scanner is easy; the only item that may cause you a problem is the locking screw that holds the scanning head in place while the unit is in transport. If you leave the locking screw in place, you can damage the scanner if you try to use it. Apart from this one potential problem, setting it up is as easy as plugging the scanner into the SCSI chain of your Mac. A SCSI terminator is supplied so you can add the scanner to the end of the chain, if that suits your set-up.

The software is extremely easy to use. If you can use *Photoshop*, or any other Mac graphics software, you can use the ScanTouch Controller plug-in. A large array of controls enable you to customise the scanning resolution, switch between fast, normal and high-quality scanning, toggle between transparency, negative and paper scanning, and control the image quality.

So overall, the Nikon ScanTouch AX-1200 is an easy-to-use, good quality scanner with a superb high-resolution scanning mode and the transparency unit available as a useful (if not slightly expensive) extra.

Nikon ScanTouch

Price: £1,345.38 (optional transparency unit £581.62 extra).
Requires: LCIII or better, at least 8Mb of RAM recommended, *Adobe Photoshop 2.0* or higher.
For more details contact DirekTek on 0181 845 5969.

Features 84%
All the settings you need to generate the perfect scan.

Ease of use 85%
Once set up, the Nikon is a dream to use.

Documentation 75%
The manual is a little on the terse side, but it does tell you everything you need to know.

Value for money 79%
High quality at a reasonable price.

MACFORMAT RATING 82%

Umax Vista-S8

WIN
A Umax Vista-S8 scanner
– SEE PAGE 146

UMAX VISTA-S8

Price: £1,404.13 (optional transparency unit £699.13).
Requires: Any colour Mac with at least 8Mb of RAM.
For more details contact IMC on 01753 830999.

FEATURES 84%
Photoshop plug-in and desk accessory versions of *VistaScan* software.

EASE OF USE 84%
Probably the easiest software to use.

DOCUMENTATION 85%
Excellent manuals for both scanner and software.

VALUE FOR MONEY 83%
Pricier than some, but more than worth it.

MACFORMAT RATING 85%

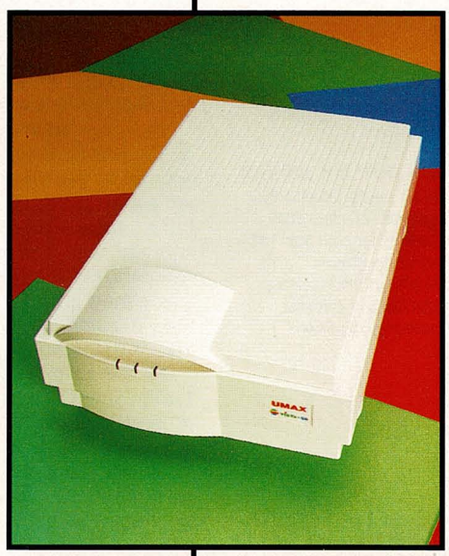
The Umax Vista-S8 is a good-looking beast with a distinctive curve to the lid of the scanner. Maximum scanning size is standard A4 document.

Setting up the hardware is pretty easy. There's just the single SCSI port, so the scanner has to be the last item on the SCSI chain. As usual, a through terminator block provides termination. The locking mechanism is easy to disengage – a few twists of the screw are all that's needed to prepare the scanning head for action. Finally, a rotary SCSI ID selector enables the scanner to be matched with your system.

If you're not familiar with setting up hardware, you'll be glad to know that there's a comprehensive manual for setting up the scanner. A separate manual is provided for you to get to grips with the *VistaScan* software used for scanning. Both manuals feature an extensive and very helpful troubleshooting section.

The *VistaScan* scanning software is supplied in two versions: a stand-alone desk accessory version and a *Photoshop* plug-in version that enables you to scan straight into *Photoshop*. The software is very powerful and easy to use, with intuitive drop-down menus for the major functions such as scanning resolution and colour modes. All the usual colour correction tools are here, along with some good image manipulation tools.

The best thing about the Vista is its speed. A preview scan typically takes under 15 seconds, and high resolution scans of 1,200 dpi and above were equally fast. To the serious user, time is an important factor when choosing an expensive tool such as a colour scanner. All in all, the Vista scanner is probably the easiest scanner to use in this test, as it produced good colour balance and a sharp image, although the default setting did generate quite a dark image. This is not a serious shortcoming and should not put you off what is after all a prince among scanners.



Epson GT-9000

EPSON GT-9000

Price: £1,815.38.
Requires:.Any colour Mac, 8Mb RAM recommended and *Photoshop 2.0* or above (*Photoshop 2.5* supplied).
For more details contact Epson on 0800 220546 for more details.

FEATURES 79%
Hassle free to set up and use.

EASE OF USE 82%
Simple to use software offers total control of your scan.

DOCUMENTATION 58%
A CD case insert doesn't constitute a manual, in my opinion.

VALUE FOR MONEY 69%
Excellent results, if not a little pricey.

MACFORMAT RATING 72%

All A4 flatbed scanners are of similar size and shape, but the Epson seems to be more efficiently designed even though it still takes up a sizable portion of your desk space. The maximum scan size is standard A4.

External controls are minimal, as ever. The Epson easily has the simplest SCSI set-up options. An external rotary SCSI ID switch and a terminator switch for enabling and disabling the internal SCSI terminators mean that you can add the Epson to the SCSI chain of any Mac set-up at will. There's a through SCSI connector so you can put the scanner anywhere on the chain. The only other control on the Epson is the power switch. The locking screw which holds the scanning head in place when the scanner is being transported just twists to disengage. You can't remove it from the scanner, so you can't lose it. A nice touch and sensible too.

The Epson *TWAIN* software is simple to use. Although it doesn't look as though it has that many options, there are enough powerful functions concealed in it to give you total control over your scans. The scanning software is a *Photoshop* plug-in offering full control over the image quality, resolution and colour balance. Cunning built-in pop-up menus enable you to control and customise the software to your heart's content – it really is easy to use.

Installing the software is a matter of dragging the files from the floppy supplied to the correct hard drive partitions. Easy enough for the more experienced, but a lot of Mac users would be happier with an installation program to make the setting up of the software as painless as possible. A graphic designer isn't necessarily familiar with setting up software on a Mac. As a bonus, an easy to use OCR package is included with the printer.

As for documentation, don't look for a chunky manual. All you need to get going is in the insert in the CD case which contains the scanning software. This lack of in depth information made me feel slightly uneasy.

Continued on next page

And the winner is...

In this type of round-up there's no real winner or loser. In the tests I used the default settings of the software supplied. While there are certain differences between the quality of the scans, most of these differences can be corrected within the scanning software itself or from within *Adobe Photoshop*. So differences in image quality aren't much of a yardstick to compare the scanners.

The big differences are in scanning speeds and scanning software. The fastest scanner is the Umax VistaScan. Prescans are performed at an astounding rate, and full A4 scans – at pretty high resolutions – typically took half as long as the other scanners. On the other hand, the Relisys was almost painfully slow to use. So if time is a factor in your work, the VistaScan is my recommendation.

All the scanners can cope with at least 1,200 dpi – which is classed as professional quality. Using software or hardware interpolation, the Epson, Relisys and the VistaScan can achieve much higher resolutions. The drawback with higher resolutions is that vast quantities of RAM and hard drive space are needed.

In conclusion, I'd recommend the Umax VistaScan for top quality scanning at high speed, and the Apple Colour OneScanner for excellent scanning ability at an affordable price.

COLOUR MY WORLD

24-bit colour refers to how many bits of information there are for each pixel (or dot on the image). 24 bits per pixel means a total range of colours exceeding 16 million.

JARGON BUSTERS

dpi: The scanning resolution measured in dots per inch. The higher the dpi, the more detailed the scan (and the larger the image file created).

FPU: A Floating Point Unit speeds up programs that rely on intensive mathematical calculations, such as spreadsheets and Computer Aided Design Programs.

Interpolation: Hardware and/or software interpolation uses complex mathematical algorithms to increase the scanning resolution.

OCR: Optical Character Recognition software enables you to scan a page of text and convert it into ASCII data which can be imported into a word processor.

SCSI: Small Computer Systems Interface – the data bus that connects hard drives, CD-ROMs and other external devices to your Mac. Every SCSI device has its own unique ID number, so your Mac knows which device is 'talking' to it. If two SCSI devices have the same ID number, your Mac can get mightily confused.

AND THERE'S MORE...

Yep, there seems to be a glut of 24-bit colour scanners on the market for the Mac at the moment.

Computer Warehouse (tel: 0171 724 4104) has an own-badged flatbed colour scanner for a bargain £351. You can get the Agfa StudioScan 2 for a reasonable £727.33 from Callhaven Direct on 0800 242444.

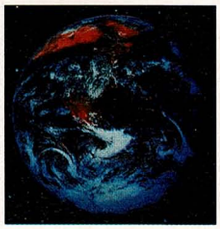
MacLine (tel: 0181 401 1111) is selling the Mikrotek ScanMaker 2, a 600 dpi scanner, for £522.88. Gasteiner Technologies (tel: 0181 345 6000) has the Mikrotek ScanMaker 3 for a cool £2,184.33. If you fancy a bit of grey-scale-only scanning, Gasteiner can let you have the mono version of the Apple OneScanner for £505.25.

Advanced Vision Research's AVR 800 including *Photoshop 2.5* is available from Tekware (tel: 01384 392121) for £1,145. Also available from Tekware is the Dextra DT-1200T Plus at £1,125 (*Photoshop 2.5* supplied).

The HP ScanJet IIcx from Hewlett Packard (tel: 01344 369369) retails at £930. A little more expensive is the MirrorScan 800 at £1,099 including *PhotoShop 2.5* from Mirror Technologies UK on 0121 212 2779.

More expensive still is the HSD Scan-X Color at £1,825 from Forester Distribution on 0181 993 1516. And finally, Sharp Electronics (tel: 0161 204 2490) is offering the Sharp JX-330 at £1,354. So, no end of choice there!

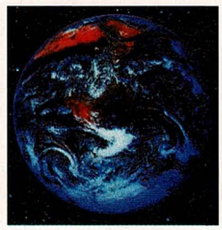
Scans with the SICOS scanner seemed to be lighter than the scans from the flatbeds, even though similar settings were used.



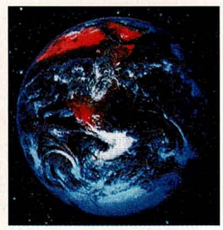
The Apple Colour OneScanner produced startlingly sharp results, with excellent colour balance, brightness and contrast.

The colours on the Relisys aren't as rich using the default settings, and there's a certain hint of 'graininess' about the whole scan.

The Nikon scanner produced an excellent scan with good contrast and a sharp colour balance, using the default software settings.



The Umax Vista produced good colour balance and a sharp image, although the default setting generated quite a dark image.



The contrast on the Epson GT-9000 scanner is very good, although the colour tones are rather rich – especially the reds.

COLOUR SCANNERS AT A GLANCE

Scanner	Document size	Resolution in dpi	Software	price	supplier
SICOS	Any size	1,200	*Colour Station Pro* *Photoshop* plug-in *EasyReader* OCR	£410.00	Harwoods 01773 836781 Devcom 01324 825005
Apple Color OneScanner	Legal A4 8.5x14 inches	1,200	*Ofoto*	£632.15	Gasteiner 0181 345 6000
Relisys	A4	4,800	*Photoshop* plug-in	£703.83	MacEurope 01603 741222
Nikon Scantouch	Legal A4 8.5x14inches	1,200	*Photoshop* plug-in	£1,345.38 (transparency unit £581.62)	DirekTek 0181 845 5969
Umax Vista	A4	6,400	*VistaScan* software	£1,404.13 (transparency unit £699.13)	IMC 01753 830999
Epson GT-9000	A4	2,400	*Epson Scan2* *Photoshop plug-in*	£1,815.38	Epson 01773 836781

COVER ME!

Don't totally oversell yourself on the dpi capability of a scanner. The scans for the cover of MACFORMAT, for example, are done at a resolution of only 250 dpi. Higher dpi resolution can be useful for sharper definition when you're scanning black and white images.

Nikon 1200dpi, 30 second ScanTouch Scanner

The affordable ScanTouch scanner from Nikon - 1200dpi quality scanning with full 24-bit colour and multi-platform compatibility!

The Nikon ScanTouch is one of the most advanced scanners in the world, with fast 1200 x 1200dpi resolution, and a multitude of image-enhancing features that are ideal for layouts and publications using both text and images. As well as 10-bit internal processing for accurate reproduction, 3 scanning modes and a superfast colour preview, the ScanTouch is very easy to use, available at the best possible price and distributed by DirekTek Distribution.

Just take a look at some of the great features of the ScanTouch

- High resolution 1200 x 1200dpi interpolated resolution, featuring 24-bit colour. Finer detail for line art and graphics achieved via the driver software to give 2400 x 2400dpi
- 10-bit A/D conversion for each RGB colour, with Colorsync compatibility - ensures accurate reproduction and fine colour gradation
- Three versatile scanning modes for speed and quality - A4, 300dpi full colour: normal mode (60 seconds); fast mode (30 seconds); high quality mode (120 seconds)
- Easy to use scanning software provided with ScanTouch for use with both Macintosh and IBM computers (optional Photoshop and TWAIN compliant drivers available)
- Preview scanned images quickly - at 12 seconds per A4 page, ScanTouch provides the fastest colour preview times in its class
- Wide scanning area of 8.5" x 14" lets you use A4, US letter and legal paper sizes
- Driver Software supports line art, halftone, greyscale and full colour output
- Available with automatic exposure, customisable resolution, image specifications and sharpness adjustment
- SCSI-II compatibility for fast transfer rates of image
- Optional transparency adaptor

For further information and prices on the Nikon ScanTouch call DirekTek today!

tel:
0181 845 5969
fax:
0181 845 8586

Nikon

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PhotoFix

True colour image editors are appearing thick and fast these days. But with *Photoshop 3.0* leading the way, are the publishers wasting their time? Marcus Dyson thinks not.

***THE* BENCHMARK**

Every image manipulation program has to be compared with *Photoshop*. For more information about the latest version of *Photoshop* see the review in MACFORMAT 22.

Photoshop! There, I've said it. When I called Linographic, the UK distributor of Le Pixel's *PhotoFix*, to check whether there were any last minute developments to the program, it was hinted (ever so subtly – these people don't try and exert influence over reviewers, you know) that it was not wholly appropriate to compare *PhotoFix* with *Photoshop*. I listened understandingly, but remained non-committal (as we journalists do).

But after further experience with the product I can see no reason not to compare it with *Photoshop*: it is a comparison in which *PhotoFix* comes off very well indeed. Additionally, *Photoshop* is *the* benchmark by which all photo re-touching programs must be judged (for the moment at least – see the *QuarkXPosure* story in MACFORMAT 23 for recent developments).

The first reason why *PhotoFix* bears comparison so well is the recommended retail price. *Photoshop* lists at £700 and it sells on the streets as low as £400; *PhotoFix* is £200 and its street price is around £149. A considerable saving by any standard.

So why not compare *PhotoFix* with something its own size? Well, other sub-£200 image editors are basically revamped versions of earlier 8-bit, 256-colour programs that still work like 8-bit programs. *PhotoFix* isn't a souped up 8-bit package; it's a 24-bit, true-colour photo retouching and image manipulation program with reduced functions. The functions that are cut out are just the ones that non-professional users are least likely to require anyway.

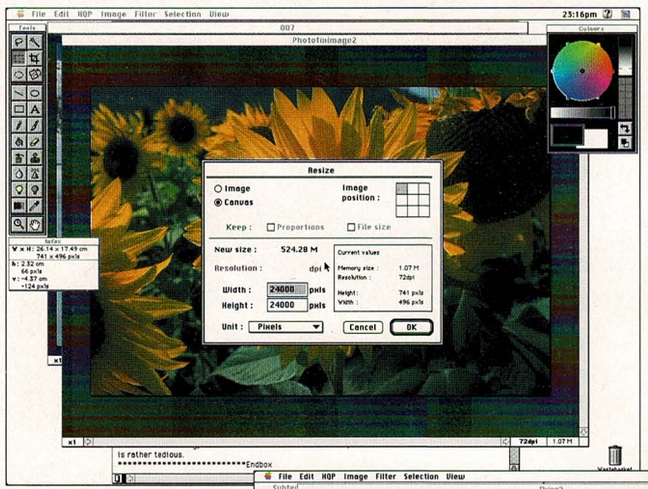
The second reason that *PhotoFix* fares so well is its System requirements. *Photoshop* requires a PowerMac or Quadra (preferably an accelerated Quadra) performance and elephantine amounts of RAM; *PhotoFix* will run on any colour Mac with more than 2.5Mb of free RAM. Wow! I ran *PhotoFix* on my LC475 with 8Mb of RAM and it ran quite happily, in complete harmony with my Mac and with the rest of the world.

So *PhotoFix* is a *Photoshop*-like tool (minus a few functions) that will run on a reasonably modest Mac. Perfect. If you don't have a Cray One supercomputer masquerading as a Macintosh, buy *PhotoFix*.

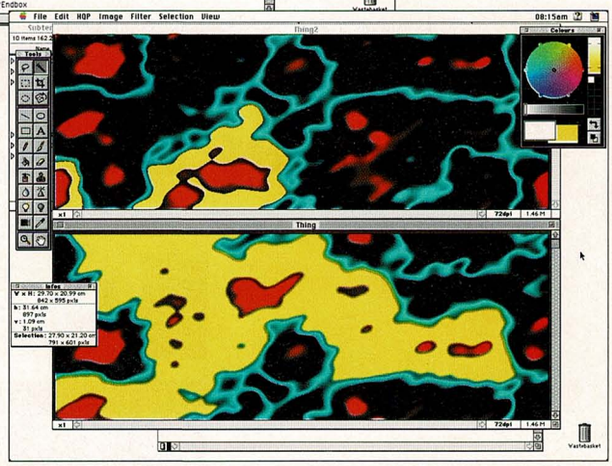
Check out the demo of *PhotoFix* on this month's CD-ROM.

So what exactly are you getting for your money then? Well, if you can't afford *Photoshop* (and if your boss isn't buying it for you, who can?) and you don't have a powerful enough Mac to run it on, then the chances are you don't know what it can do. If, on the other hand, you are familiar with *Photoshop*, flip to the end of this review now and check out the rating because the rest of this review is going to sound much like a listing of *Photoshop's* functions (minus layers and channels, basically).

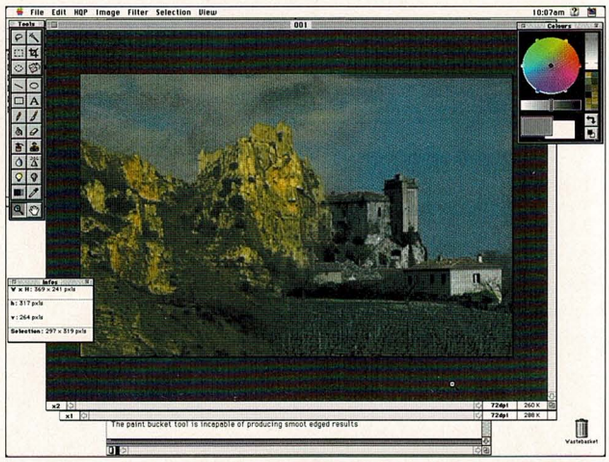
PhotoFix's interface is a strange mix of classic Mac and new-style 3D menus. The main toolbox has a greyscale 3D effect



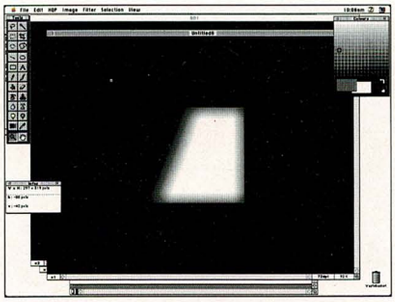
In *Photofix* both the resizing of an image and the resizing of the 'canvas' or working area are carried out from the same requester – an improvement over *Photoshop*, since data gleaned from one is often required for use in the other.



The paint bucket tool is incapable of producing smooth edged results through anti aliasing (top) but as with most of *PhotoFix's* 'deficiencies' lateral thinking can provide a solution. Here the magic wand (which *can* anti-alias) was used, then the selection was deleted to the yellow background colour.



You can use the feathering effect to soften the edges of a selection so it blends into the surrounding image. Feathering extends the selection outward but at less than full opacity so that some of the surrounding image is included.

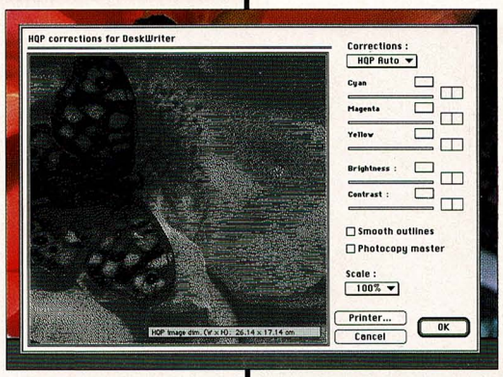


While *PhotoFix* doesn't have channels as such, selections can be saved out to separate documents to be re-loaded at a later stage. The only problem is that it makes an 'intelligent' decision about the size of the selection document, to save on RAM and hard disk space requirements. This can lead to problems with positioning when re-loading a channel, and could, in certain circumstances, defeat the whole purpose.

PERFECT PRINT

One thing you'll notice when you're using *PhotoFix* is the tendency for the cursor to display an HQP animation when busy. HQP stands for High Quality Printing. It's a system that enables you to enter the characteristics of your printer to the program, or select them from the existing list if they're on there. Once the program has the details, it can make a best guess about how to create an image with the right settings to get the best from your printer.

Results on my HP DeskWriter 520 are usually pretty good, and any improvement was not too noticeable. But if you've got a colour printer, or you aren't too happy with the results you get from your current graphics package, *PhotoFix's* HQP could well be worth a look.



The High Quality Printing functions enable you to customise the output to get the best from your printer.

look to it; it's not quite as attractive as the spectacular new-look *FreeHand 5.0* interface (see MACFORMAT 23), but it looks quite good all the same. It is from here that most of the program's features are accessed and controlled.

The **Tools** menu has all the normal selection, drawing and magnifying tools that you would expect from a Mac paint package. There are also the cloning tools and tools to lighten/darken or sharpen/blur the image in selective areas that we have come to know and love from an image processing package like *Photoshop*. Additionally, *PhotoFix* places its rotate tool in the **Tools** menu, and a perfect place it is for it too.

Parlez-vous, er, English?

PhotoFix also combines image resizing features (resize image and resize canvas in *Photoshop*) neatly into one menu.

The program's French origins are all too obvious on occasion, not just from a few badly translated phrases but from the occasional failure to translate at all. Take for instance the pencil tool: if you double-click on it to resize the 'brush size' you get a requester that enables you to do just that. But the buttons say 'OK', as you might expect, and 'Annuler'. Now my French is pretty rusty these days, but could that be Cancel?

PhotoFix does away with the options palette by relying on you to double-click on tools to modify them, much like in earlier versions of *Photoshop*. But if this is *Photoshop* Lite, it has some features that *Photoshop* has only just delivered. Multiple undos are here. But in *PhotoFix* all you have to do is repeatedly press **[Command] Z**; *Photoshop's* multiple layers incarnation is a little more complicated than that. There are also 'dodge' and 'burn' tools to selectively lighten or darken specific parts of an image.

Photoshop Plug-ins are supported, which is probably just as well: without them any program like this would have to have a significant amount more indigenous features. In fact, without Plug-ins, even *Photoshop* would look pretty impotent. But the thing is, when you buy *Photoshop* you get a selection of *Photoshop* Plug-ins with it – many of the others are commercial. Now, if you can afford to splash out £700 for *Photoshop*, the chances are that you will be able to afford a few extra Plug-ins for it. But if, on the other hand, you're on a tight budget and can only afford £149 for *PhotoFix*, finding the spare cash for extra Plug-ins may be a little more difficult.

One feature of *PhotoFix* that is nice in concept, but doesn't quite work in reality, is the *PhotoFix Browser*. This application makes a library of images, complete with previews. This makes the task of finding the right image much simpler – in theory. The *Browser* trawls through a folder and, supposedly, catalogues all images that are in a *PhotoFix* compatible format. In practice though, *PhotoFix Browser* often refuses to give a preview of images that have actually been saved out of *PhotoFix* itself, while it happily displays *Photoshop's* TIFFs and PICTs.

A load of old crop

Another of the *Browser's* features that should have been nice but isn't, is the ability to append text comments and keywords to an image, and then search for these keywords later. In practice though, the *Browser* fails to find any images based on any 'Infos'.

Another small fault of *PhotoFix* is the crop tool. It has to be used at a sufficiently small magnification for all the desired crop area to be seen at once. If it's not, the window doesn't scroll as you try

WHICH ONE?

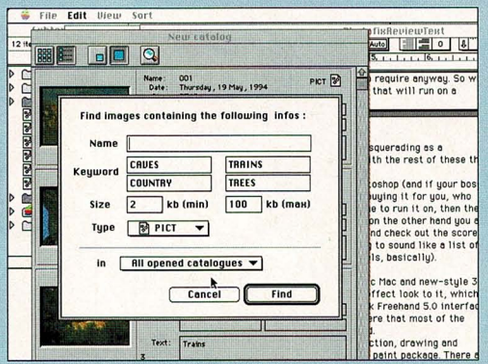
There are demos of both *PhotoFix* and *Photoshop* on the CD-ROM. Both demos are save disabled, but otherwise are fully useable, so you should be able to get a good idea of the programs' respective merits. See page 12 for a guide to getting started with both.

Continued on next page

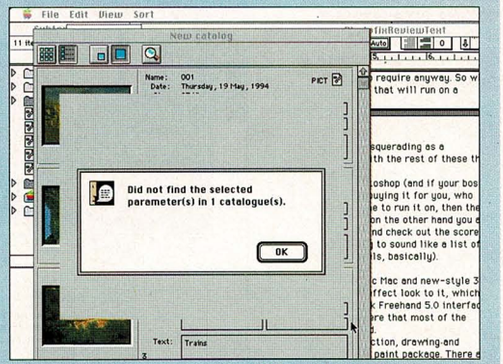
THE BRILLIANT BROWSER – WELL, SORT OF...

The *PhotoFix Browser* is a separate package from *PhotoFix*, but comes bundled with it. The *Browser* makes a library of images, complete with previews, and enables you to find the correct image quickly and easily – allegedly! Unfortunately, it is all very good in theory but doesn't really work in practice...

PhotoFix's Browser is, on first impressions, powerful and attractive. It busily catalogues all *PhotoFix* compatible images...

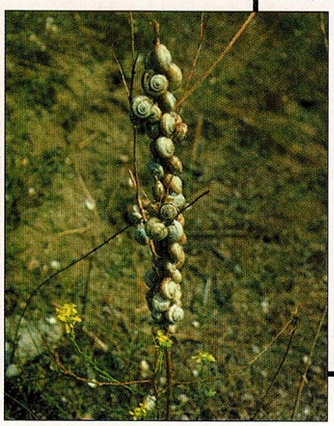


...But then you try to use its search facility and it won't even open images that have been saved out in *PhotoFix* itself.



You can append text comments and keywords to an image and then search for them later, but you get this message!

LES IMAGES DE FRANCE



There is a vogue these days for including a CD-ROM with a software product. Usually these discs will include tutorial files, demos of other software by the same publisher, and fonts or images to use with the main application. Le Pixel has seen fit to include such a CD-ROM with *PhotoFix*. The disk is nothing more than a collection of 'images of France', most of them a little dull and lifeless. The disc even bears the name PCD0636, showing that it is just a Kodak Photo CD rather than a specially mastered disc.

The images themselves are nothing to get excited about though. Despite France being one of the most exciting countries in Europe, the CD-ROM is full of images of grenouille, lézards and even escargot. There are no pictures of the sun drenched beaches of the Côte d'Azur, or scenes of the Champs Elyseés par nuit. Such scenes are a rarity on this disk, which seems to concentrate on the compiler's love of indigenous French wildlife. Très interessant!

Les Escargot. What kind of name is that for a snail? They want to change their name by deed poll to Bill or Ted Escargot, that's what they wanna do.

to extend the crop beyond its borders, and you can't use the scroll bar to do so without the current crop area being deactivated. This isn't a fatal error, but it does need attending to for pixel-perfect crops to be possible.

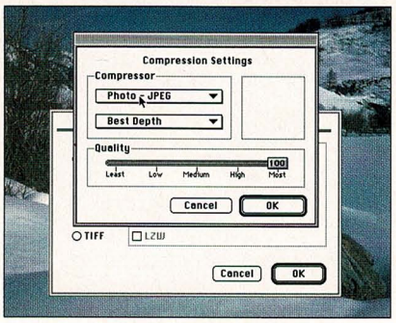
What *PhotoFix* doesn't do is work in the CMYK colour mode. It isn't a problem if you wish to display your work on screen or video, or even print it out on your own colour printer, but it's not the desired way of working for professional users aiming to have their work four-colour litho printed. But *PhotoFix* isn't really aimed at the professional user.

To hedge its bets, Le Pixel is releasing an after-market upgrade to enable the CMYK mode to be used – although this will be a costly option.

One feature of *Photoshop* that I thought *PhotoFix* would have had considerable difficulty doing without was the channels facility. But while *PhotoFix* doesn't really have channels, it does enable you to save out selections, and re-load these at a later time. So, despite these saved-out selections becoming separate documents, they perform essentially the same function as alpha channels in *Photoshop*.

PhotoFix has my unreserved recommendation (the *PhotoFix Browser* is a separate package, and does not). But it is possible that most users intent on performing true-colour image manipulation have Macs powerful enough to run *Photoshop*. If that is the case, then *Photoshop* is the ideal choice. But if your software budget, or more importantly the specification of your Mac, is more modest, *PhotoFix* is the one and only realistic alternative. Buy it! You won't be sorry. **MF**

Although many of the images on the CD-ROM Which accompanies *PhotoFix* are rather dull and lifeless, the Corrections requester, which combines colour balance, brightness and contrast controls, has an excellent 'Auto' function which improves the appearance of most images.



PhotoFix has nowhere near *Photoshop's* huge range of file formats. TIFF, PICT and JPEG are its staple diet, but it does have one or two other, less common, formats too.

PHOTOFIX

Price: £199. Out: now.
Requires: any colour Mac (accelerated version for Power Mac included), 2.5Mb of RAM, 2Mb of hard disk space and System 7.0 or later.
For more details contact Linographic on 01252 376103.

FEATURES — 75%

It doesn't have all the features *Photoshop* has, but it has all the ones the non-professional user is likely to want to use. Pity about the image browser.

EASE OF USE — 85%

The menu is very similar to *Photoshop's* and all the functions can be controlled from it.

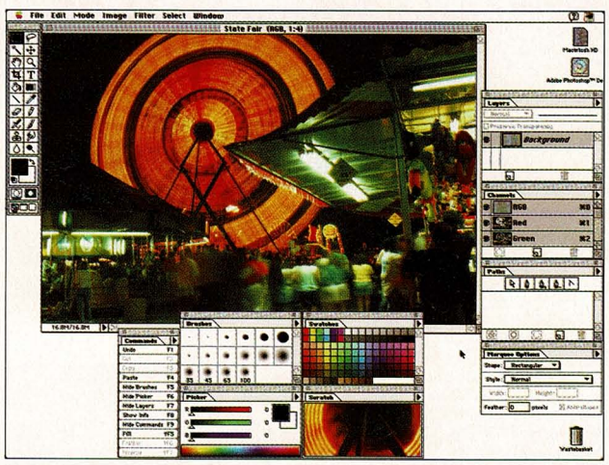
DOCUMENTATION — 75%

The documentation that came with the review copy was marked 'Evaluation copy – Temporary document', but it was adequate all the same.

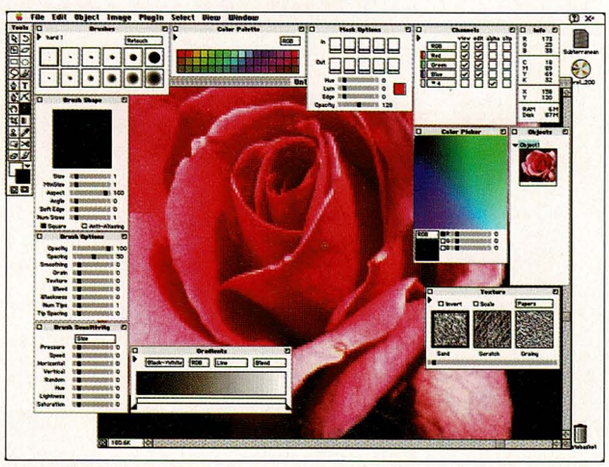
VALUE FOR MONEY — 89%

The best features of *Photoshop* for a third of the price. If your Mac can't handle *Photoshop*, you really should have this!

MACFORMAT RATING — 83%



There has been an influx of new image manipulation programs lately, but will any of them threaten the almighty *Photoshop 3.0*, reviewed in MACFORMAT MF22?



In MACFORMAT 23, we reviewed one of these challengers, *XRes*. Although this came out quite well, its features have a long way to go before it overtakes *Photoshop*.

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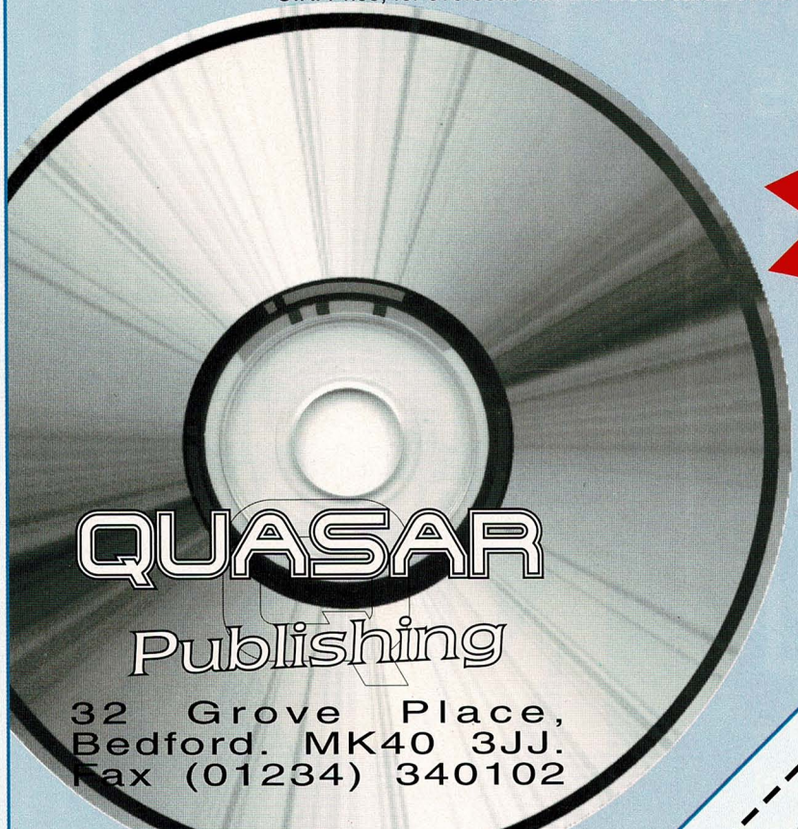

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TECHNIQUE
TECHNIQUE
JUMP FOR JUMP
Hone your reactions to race mode and practice your jump timing for downhill with air bandit Jason McRoy
TO

Jason McRoy's ridiculously dangerous recipe for spot on downhill skills...

GROUPTEST
GROUPTEST
SOLED OUT!
Soft, squishy-soled shoes could seriously compromise your mountain biking performance. Brant Richards spent time on the hoof to cobble this review together
WHILE
Shoe features
Carnac Sportive
Carnac Evolution

We give MTB shoes a right kicking

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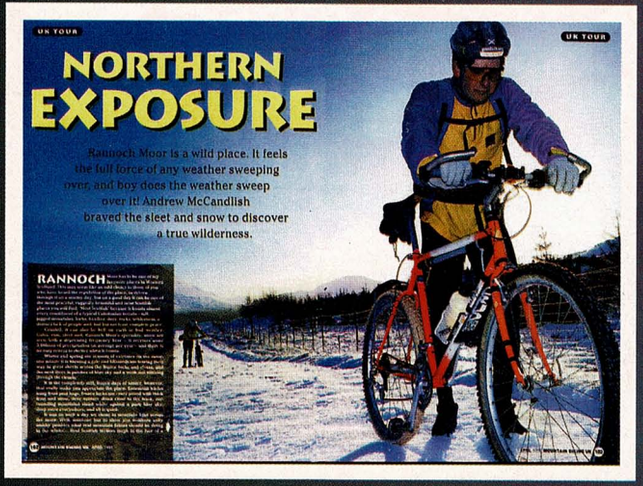
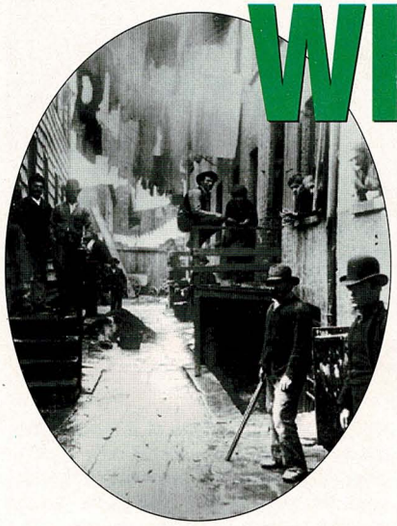

UK TOUR
UK TOUR
NORTHERN EXPOSURE
Rannoch Moor is a wild place. It feels the full force of any weather sweeping over, and boy does the weather sweep over it! Andrew McCandlish braved the sleet and snow to discover a true wilderness.
RANNOCH

A snowy yomp across Scotland's Rannoch Moor - find out why real Scottish MTB fanatics laugh in the face of a warm day...

April issue on sale

NOW

Who Built America?



The past of the United States comes alive in this CD-ROM archive. It started off life as a history lesson for kids, but is some of the material too strong for children?

It isn't until you get well into adulthood that you learn to appreciate the value of history. As the years stretch out behind us, we come to realise how our knowledge of the past feeds our understanding of the present and informs our choices for the future.

Getting this sensation across to children has always been a problem – remember those summer afternoons spent flicking paper missiles at each other while your teacher droned on about the constitutional crisis of 1910? Nowadays, CD-ROM is proving effective at breathing new life into history for young and old alike.

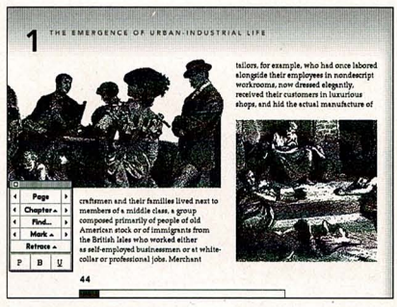
Who Built America? documents the growing pains of American society between 1876, when it celebrated its first centenary, and 1914, when it watched in horror as its European cousins waged war on each other and made the new century a more uncertain place.

The time is important because of the growth of industry, following the Industrial Revolution in Europe. As mechanisation grew, people's ways of life were transformed and tensions between rich and poor, and black and white, increased under the pressure.

Who Built America? is presented as a book, with pages of text to leaf through with the help of a small on-screen toolbox. If there's a picture on the page, you can click on it to see it in more detail. The photos and illustrations add a great deal of richness to the text, which is detailed and opinionated.

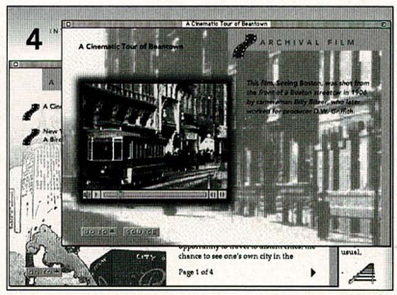
Try out our demo of *Who Built America* on this month's CD-ROM

Better still are the hidden sections you can see by clicking on a headline in the corner of the page as they arise. These sections hold a fantastic resource of interviews with, and letters written by, people who lived through these experiences. There are even QuickTime conversions of early cinema films. It would be difficult to get hold of this material in the first place, let alone in such a good setting that makes the significance of a cartoon or photo clear.



Who Built America? tells the story behind the story of the US – how it altered its people on the way to success.

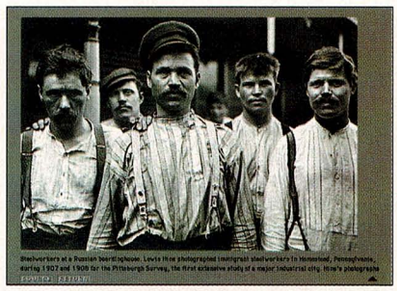
WBA? is fascinating but is a little awkward to use. You'll find yourself clicking often to move between pages, dragging the toolbox out of your way and back again, or flicking between related boxes of text. The interface could have been so much smoother – as it is it distracts you from what's important about this project. The constant use of black-and-white, for graphics as well as illustrations, is tedious – perhaps a colour design using sepia tones, for example, could have been used to keep your eyes refreshed.



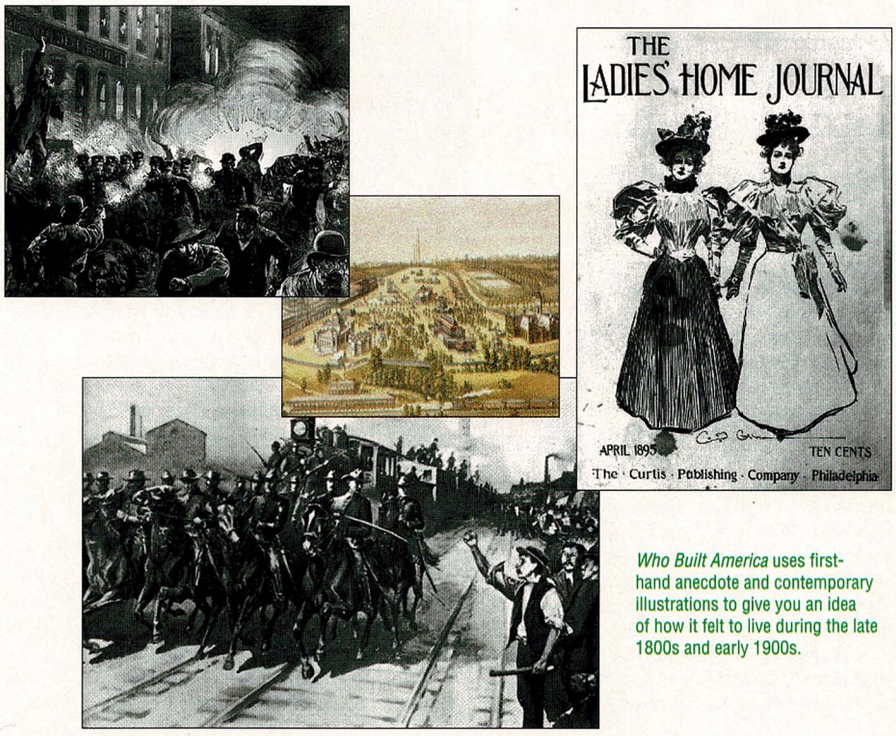
Some of the first film ever shot has been converted into QuickTime video, including this tour of Boston.

Who Built America? has started a debate in the US about whether this sort of CD-ROM material, which includes coverage of adult topics like abortion, is suitable for kids (for more information see Macroscope on page 30). This is really a decision that's up to you, but the material here is no stronger than the sort of thing discussed in TV documentaries. In the case of the abortion section, it brings home the life people led, the choices they made and the consequences that followed.

What is clear is that *Who Built America?* is an excellent resource that literally makes history more moving and shows the potential of CD-ROM. **RICHARD HILL**



Photos bring to life the people caught in the conflict that grew to characterise America to this day – between class, race and sex.



Who Built America uses first-hand anecdote and contemporary illustrations to give you an idea of how it felt to live during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

WHO BUILT AMERICA?

Price: £44.99. Out: now.
Requires: any Mac, 8Mb of RAM, System 7 or later, a 13-inch colour screen and a CD-ROM drive (double-speed recommended).
For more details contact Softline on 0181 401 1234.

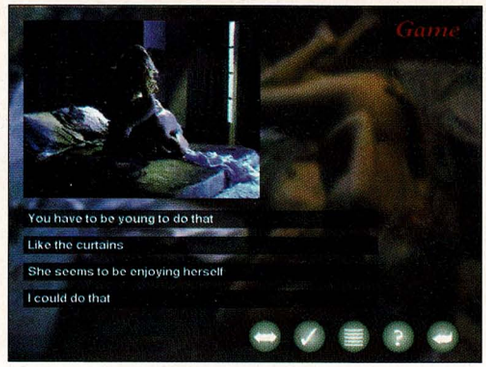
MACFORMAT RATING 81%

ALL GROWN UP

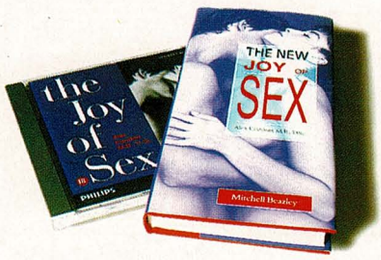
Who Built America? is one of a new wave of CD-ROMs tackling more contentious material – for more details see MacroScope on page 30.

The Joy of Sex

An interactive sex guide on CD-ROM, designed to bring alive your love life and make it more satisfactory. But it changes the direction of multimedia – over 18's only.



The video clips show couples as they discover each other – strangely, many couples appear to have matching curtains.



There have been many guides to adult relationships, but none more successful than the book *The Joy Of Sex*, which has been a best-seller for many years. It's about making love rather than having sex, addressing itself to monogamous adults rather than inexperienced teenagers.

The package for your Mac consists of CD-ROM and pocket book editions of the original work. The bulk of the CD is devoted to reproducing the contents of the book in a more televisual format. Separate presentations take you through areas of physical adult relationships designed to make them more satisfying. The foundation of a good love life – according to the disc – is discussion between partners. Aspects like safe sex are briefly mentioned, but a basic knowledge is assumed.

Most of the fundamental information is relayed through illustrations and voice-overs, with clear views of bodies including the penis and the vagina. More restrained video clips add decoration. The bland guitar music and soft lighting dilute the mood, and the scenes shouldn't draw a strong response from you – neither offense nor excitement is likely.

Interactive sections are limited. You're asked to respond to clips and illustrations and your answers are rated. Even the most convincing section – the questionnaire – isn't able to dig far beneath the surface of your feelings and concerns. The CD could have asked you for more personal details and tailored the material more specifically for your own needs.

A game with cheesy quiz show host narration rounds out the disc and shows the chances that have been rejected in favour of the easy option. You and your partner register your responses to video scenes and illustrations of different love-making moods. You each secretly click on one of a choice of answers; the more your answers match, the more you're deemed to be a successful couple. But a more thorough program could have assessed your relationship based on the contrast or similarity between your

The Joy Of Sex uses video and illustrations to offer expert advice and instruction on sexual relationships.

X-RATED

Because of its content, you can only buy *The Joy Of Sex* if you're aged 18 or older. The box is clearly labelled with a British Board of Film Certification '18' badge.

This is Spinal Tap

The deaf-initive heavy rock group is immortalised on this new disc – does it have the staying power to go all the way to 11?

'What happened to your first drummer?' 'He's dead... he died in a bizarre gardening accident.'

STRONG STUFF

Life on the road is tough and unforgiving, especially for rock gods, so there's lots of strong language – sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll is what it's all about, man.

The members of Spinal Tap are not mere humans like you and me – they're rock gods. The group is a cornerstone of the rock 'n' roll pantheon of fame with seminal albums like *Intravenous De Milo* and *Smell The Glove*. Now Spinal Tap achieves digital immortality with a two-part tribute to its riff-tastic genius.

The CD-ROM set gives you the chance to view again the classic tour documentary, which was a major influence on lesser films like Scorsese's *The Last Waltz*. It traces the Tap's triumphant comeback and subsequent disintegration under the pressures of being so great. You can see how the band live and work with each other, while the stresses of life on the road are captured brilliantly. It's a great film – so what's it doing on CD-ROM?

They walked among us like men, but the members of Spinal Tap were nothing less than peroxide-painted gods in lycra.

The material is split over two CDs. The first is a version of the original film, which has been converted into QuickTime so you don't need any extra hardware to watch it. Unfortunately, as with most QuickTime material, watching over an hour of it is murder on your eyes. No video system that uses only software is powerful enough to offer a good picture.

Try out our demo of *This is Spinal Tap* on this month's CD-ROM

The package is partially saved by the ingenious application of parallel narrations. Instead of listening to the straight movie soundtrack as you watch it, you can flick a switch and hear the actors' account of how the movie was written and filmed. Or flick it again to hear the film crew's version of events. It's an interesting idea that could be put to good use, like a study aid – imagine a classic film with a narration for budding writers showing how the screenplay does its job. The presentation here still doesn't give you much to do apart from watching a blurry screen image.

The material on the second CD includes rough cuts of scenes that didn't make it into the final film. Moments like an intoxicated Bruno Kirby doing an

There are four guided tours, where different role models guide you through the hopes and fears in their relationships – and how sex plays its part.

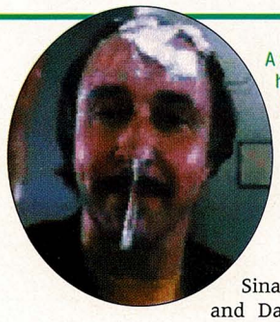
answers, for example. Women's mags do these funny, flirty quizzes much better.

If this package hadn't included the book and cost less, or done something different from the book, then it would have been more worthwhile. Rescued by its price, *The Joy Of Sex* is an odd package with book and CD that cover the same territory in the same way. **RICHARD HILL**

THE JOY OF SEX

Price: £29.99. Out: now.
Requires: LCII or better with System 7.1 or later, at least 6Mb of RAM (4Mb free after System is loaded), a 13-inch colour screen and a double-speed CD-ROM drive.
For more details call Softline on 0181 401 1234.

MACFORMAT RATING 75%



A second CD-ROM holds the best of the scenes that never made it into the film, plus assorted Tap memorabilia.

unforgettable Sinatra impression, and David and Nigel lamenting Derek's lack of heavy metal cred in the trouser department are very funny – but this is CD-ROM, not a video. There's a lot to watch and listen to, but little chance to participate. **RICHARD HILL**

THIS IS SPINAL TAP

Price: £34.99. Out: now.
Requires: Mac IIci or better with System 7, at least 6Mb of RAM (3.5Mb free after System is loaded), a colour screen and a CD-ROM drive (double-speed recommended).
For more details contact Softline on 0181 401 1234.

MACFORMAT RATING 68%

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S BLIND DATE

If you can brave trial by pizza delivery boy and ordeal by closet, you could reach Sandi's bedroom – but it"s not over yet.

In this slice of interactive fiction, you're just another lonely guy who's given a date by an agency. Your companion for the evening is Sandi-with-an-'i' – your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to bed her before the night is through.

You take her to a pool room and negotiate your way through the evening by selecting what you decide is the most appropriate response to her sparkling witticisms. Mind you, don't come on too strong and get Sandi mad at you. Remember there's a line between winning cheekiness and all-out grossness – not much of a line, but it's there... You have $100 to spend on the evening – if you run out, you're dumped. Sandi's state of mind is reflected by the Mood Ring, which turns red if she's irritated or blue if she's relaxed.

Are you man enough for Sandi? Pick the right thing to say, buy her a few drinks and you'll soon have her relaxed enough to take her home.

Although it's in the form of a game, *Blind Date* offers no challenge – in fact, it goes out of its way to make sure you get satisfaction on a plate. All you have to do is buy Sandi the right number of drinks and she's yours within the hour. You'll receive hints from Max the bartender and even Sandi herself. And as you get closer to the bedroom, she surrenders and tells you exactly what answers to give to win her over.

Blind Date is less a game than an interactive flesh show – it doesn't make you earn your rewards. When you reach the halfway stage, there's a fantasy sequence where swimsuited Sandi dances to grinding blues music. And because Sandi can't possibly be enough to hold your interest, there are several other women play-acting and dancing just for you throughout the story. Easter eggs – sequences hidden in programs for you to discover – never came wrapped like this.

If you fancy play-acting a selfish git out on the pull, this is the program for you. *Blind Date* offers lazy ideas and tired images of manufactured women, plastic in body and soul. It uses the interactive nature of CD only to persuade yōu they're that little bit more real. It's difficult to decide if it's women or men who should feel the more insulted. **RICHARD HILL**

You think she's trying to tell you something? Nah, don't worry, it's just a test to discover how compatible the two of you are.

BLIND DATE

Price: £39.99. Out: now.
Requires: LCII or better with System 7, 8Mb of RAM, a 13-inch colour screen and a double-speed CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Domark on 0181 780 2222.

MACFORMAT RATING 55%

WHAT IS IT?

National Lampoon is an American (adult) humour magazine, which originally started as *Harvard Lampoon* – Harvard University's student magazine. Many spoof films have been derived from this magazine, including *National Lampoon's Animal House.*

Max the bartender will help you make sure you buy Sandi just enough drinks to get her in the right mood.

Let's play soccer

Swallow your pride, forget 1966, and let the Americans – the Americans? – tell you how to perfect your footie...

So here we have it: an easy to use, TV-style interface. *Let's Play Soccer* covers a host of topics that you can just click on to get up and running... or should that be 'up and dribbling'?

Now this is a bit rich: the Americans selling us a CD-ROM telling us how to perfect *our* national game. But then, given our inept performances lately, we could probably do with learning a thing or two.

And learning is the name of the game here. John Harkes, the US World Cup team's midfielder, is your personal coach. He shows you the ropes, courtesy of some willing youngsters. Okay, so there's plenty of 'high fives' and back-slapping 'whoops' and 'yeahs' but, American over-excitement apart, there's plenty that's of genuine use to a young footballer.

The disc is divided into three sections, starting with an introduction explaining the various laws and strategies. Then it's on to offense – make that 'attack' – and defense. You get 30 or so video lessons. These are step-by-step guides that you can play individually or as a series.

The interface is the same throughout: a simple vehicle for QuickTime training films and voice-overs, plus occasional footage from World Cup games. You can pause and rewind the clips at any point, and even proceed in slo-mo.

The problem is, I would guess that the average British kid would feel a little aggrieved to be taught football by a bunch of Yanks. This doesn't necessarily detract from the educational value of *Let's Play Soccer* – it's just a cultural problem resting on America's complete lack of credibility when it comes to football.

But the Americans do appear to be learning fast (they beat us), no doubt

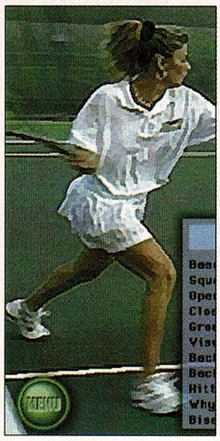
Let's Play Soccer's video action can be paused and rewound, or even clicked through frame by frame for a more detailed look at the moves and strategies.

spurred on by discs such as this. And in theory, at any rate, they seem to know the score. I suppose that when America win the World Cup, we should all rush

Here we are shown some of the ploys of offense (US speak for 'attack'). What's your preference, the lone striker or the Christmas tree formation?

Let's play tennis

Learn to play tennis the professional way with American champion Tracy Austin and some of her friends.



Let's play Tennis is no substitute for getting out on the court and playing, but it's much easier on the knees.

Recognise this interface? Yes, it's exactly the same as *Let's Play Soccer* and *Golf*. But this time there are a few more lessons to be learned, courtesy of Tracy Austin and her pals, Australian Fred Stolle and South African Cliff Drysdale. There's less action and more verbal

Let's Play Tennis has one of the simplest front-ends you could hope for, and covers every conceivable aspect of the game.

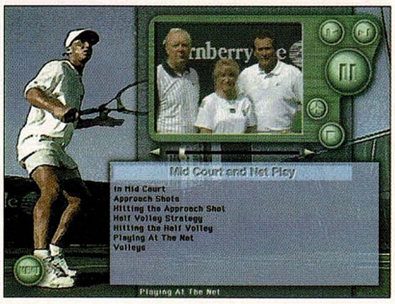
tuition than on the soccer disc.

The coverage is pretty comprehensive and the method of presentation far better than any traditional training video. You're able to pick and choose the aspects of the game that you want to get clued up on – at your own pace, and over and over again if need be.

Each of the six sections contains a dozen or so short clips explaining the various techniques and strategies involved in mastering the game. The tuition is on the ball (pardon the pun). And this time, given America's excellence in this sport, there's no credibility gap.

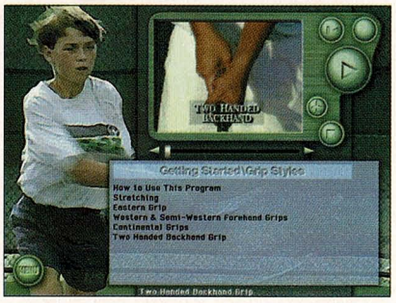
There's also footage culled from pro matches, and commentary on the techniques used by all the major tennis stars. Curiously, there's little mention of John McEnroe's techniques – but then again, there's no section on the art of abusing umpires either.

So does it work as an educational tool? Well, I'd certainly be rushing out to prac-



Tracy Austin, Fred Stolle and Cliff Drysdale know their stuff – and their collective knowledge is delivered in a clear manner and intercut with action footage.

tise the tips if I were a tennis player. And until we have head-mounted virtual reality simulators, I suppose this is about as good as it gets. Either way, you can certainly learn plenty about the game without having to worry about where you're



The secrets of the double-handed backhand revealed. Put both hands on the racket and hit the ball hard.

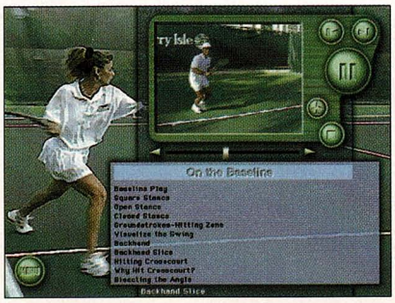
Yes, that is a girlie at the back of that shot! And why not, indeed? Particularly with the game's increasing popularity with the fairer sex.

out and buy *Let's Play Soccer*. Until then, we're better off waiting for Manchester United Inc to become publishers. They might even include a karate disc, covering drop kicks, to go with it... **ANDY STORER**

LET'S PLAY SOCCER

Price: $39.95. Out: now.
Requires: LCIII or better, 4Mb of RAM, System 6.0.7 or later, a 13-inch colour monitor, and a single-speed CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Intelliplay on 001 404 262 0000.

MACFORMAT RATING 65%



Here we're brushing up on our baseline technique with Cliff Drysdale looking surprisingly like Pete Sampras. You can advance through the clips frame-by-frame to perfect your own technique.

going to find a couple of ball-boys to do all the hard work. With this informative CD-ROM reaching our shores, it can only be a matter of time until an Englishman once more lifts the Men's Singles Championship at Wimbledon. **ANDY STORER**

LET'S PLAY TENNIS

Price: $39.95. Out: now.
Requires: LCIII or better, 4Mb of RAM, System 6.0.7 or later, a 13-inch colour monitor, and a single-speed CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Intelliplay on 001 404 262 0000.

MACFORMAT RATING 68%

Golf with Tom Kite

Tee off with PGA veteran Tom Kite, get those birdies and reduce your score to something respectable.

Subtitled 'Lower your Score with Tom Kite: the Full Swing and Putting', this CD-ROM will probably sell in droves. The reason being that golf is possibly the most difficult game to master. Short of buying dozens of books, a few videos and some lessons with the club pro, there's never been a viable alternative to 'practise makes perfect'.

But this CD-ROM, with its thorough and detailed shot-by-shot approach to golf, drives the minimal educational value of games like *PGA Tour* into the bunkers forever.

The instruction method of *Tom Kite* is much the same as in the tennis and the football CD-ROMs. But this time you're being taught by Tom Kite, victor of 19 PGA tours. Tom will no doubt make a great coach when he retires: his knowledge and delivery are top-notch. On top of this, the CD has footage of actual matches, courtesy of ABC Sports. All good stuff.

What's particularly useful is the facility to view the video-clips frame by frame. This enables you to see the techniques involved, particularly useful for analysing the swings; the action is too fast to catch in real time. Also handy is an index where you can call up a video simply by clicking on an entry in an alphabetically-arranged contents list.

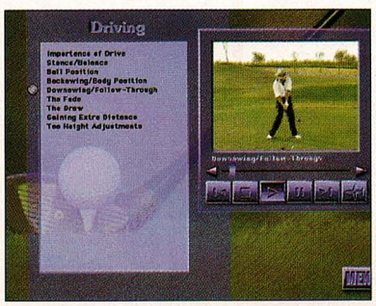
Straight from the loading screen, you know this one's going to be pretty comprehensive. There are eight different categories solely on swing and putting.

But what's missing is any footage and tuition on shot making and approach play, the two strategic elements that are essential in golf. There is a second volume of Tom's expert deliberations on this aspect of the game in the form of *'Lower your Score with Tom Kite – Shot Making'*. But this means forking out for another CD-ROM... A temptation the serious golfer will find hard to resist.

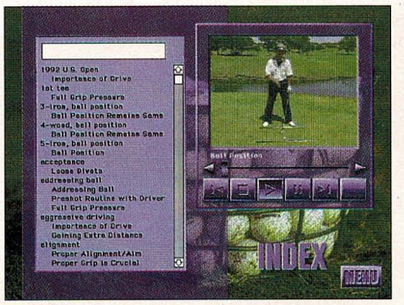
Together these two CDs should provide an invaluable companion to what could be the most exasperating sport ever invented. No wonder they've also included the commentaries of a sports psychology consultant.

ANDY STORER

In the Index section you can quickly find an alphabetically-listed topic and call up a video, which you can view frame by frame if you wish.



Select one of those eight sections to explore and this is where you end up. Okay, it's nothing fancy in terms of an interface, but the videos are good quality and the commentary is first class.



An advantage of *Golf with Tom Kite* is the vast amounts of money you'll save on green fees and lost balls.

GOLF WITH TOM KITE

Price: $59.95.
Requires: LCIII or better, 4 Mb of RAM, System 6.0.7 or later, a 13-inch colour monitor or larger and a single-speed CD-ROM drive.
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MACFORMAT RATING 80%

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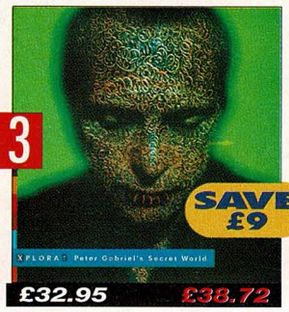

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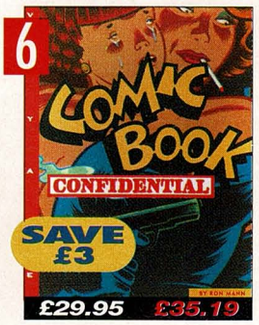
6



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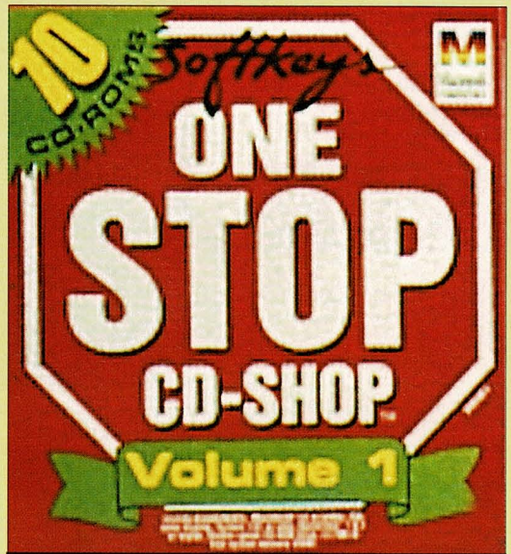

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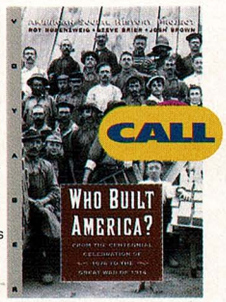
Culled from eighty hours of interveiws and a warehouse of NASA films, this seventy nine minute film tells the story of the first 'extraterrestrial humans'. It is a composite portrait from blastoff to splashdown of the Apollo mission control, and speaks eloquently about the "beautifully, brilliantly illuminated blue marble that we call the Earth."

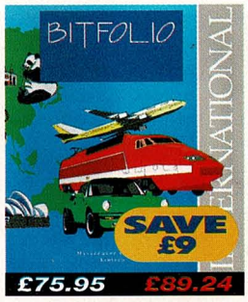
This Is Spinal Tap

The mock rockumentary about a heavy metal band on the verge of spontaneous combustion which became a cult hit when it was released in 1984. With this two CD-Rom set, Voyager ushers one of England's loudest bands into the digital age – and yes, the volume goes to eleven.

Who Built America?

This electronic book commentates on the social and economic history of the period in America, between the centennial celebration of 1876 and World War 1. The text, pictures and accounts concentrate on the work and the workers that transformed American society and the underlying tensions caused by such great change. Who Built America? is unusual in that it looks at the period 1876-1914 from a Socialist standpoint.





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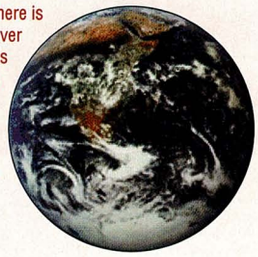
For All Mankind



Shown here is just one of over 100 pictures from Nasa's own archives: the Earth as seen from space.

One small step for man, a giant leap for mankind and now an excellent new CD-ROM title. Prepare for lift-off!

SOUNDTRACK
For All Mankind's beautiful soundtrack was created by Brian Eno. He wrote the music for the weird and wacky *Headcandy*, reviewed in MACFORMAT 20.

For All Mankind is an excellent example of how original film footage can be given the multimedia treatment. Here we have a 79 minute film, which took ten years to complete, detailing every manned mission from Apollo 1 to Apollo 17, sitting alongside a wide range of other materials.

Culled from eight hours of interviews and NASA footage, Al Reinert's movie can either be viewed in its entirety or used as an introduction to the other sections on the CD-ROM. If you choose to sit back and view the movie, you're treated to first class QuickTime footage, accompanied by on-screen subtitles to voice-overs and commentary, and an original soundtrack by Brian Eno in 16-bit Dolby surround sound.

Even though these three elements work seamlessly together to provide a unique insight into the missions, the additional material on the disk goes even further. You're able to study accounts of each mission in detail as a series of high-res stills with accompanying text, as well as view maps of the lunar landing sites, diagrams of spacecraft and equipment and biographies of the astronauts. In addition there's an interview with the film-maker with over 100 images from NASA archives, a detailed glossary of all the terms contained in the commentaries, and a series of excursions.

You'll be over the moon with the demo of *For All Mankind* on this month's CD

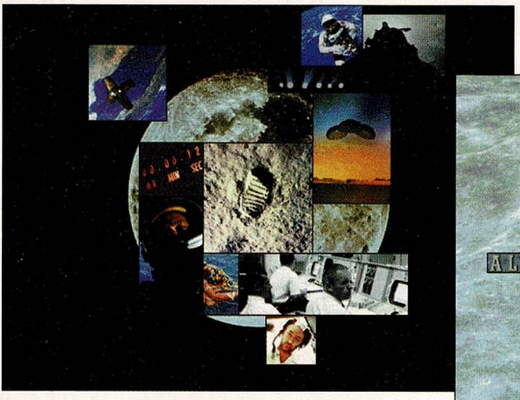
These excursions are *For All Mankind's* most endearing feature; some 13 self-contained sections mainly consisting of a multitude of screens displaying stills material and accompanying text. They're designed to be used in conjunction with the main movie – get to a section that you'd like to study in more detail and you can switch to the relevant excursion before returning. Throughout the CD-ROM, controlling all this disparate material is made easy by a simple point and click interface and there's sufficient diversity and scope in the contents to make the browsing worthwhile.

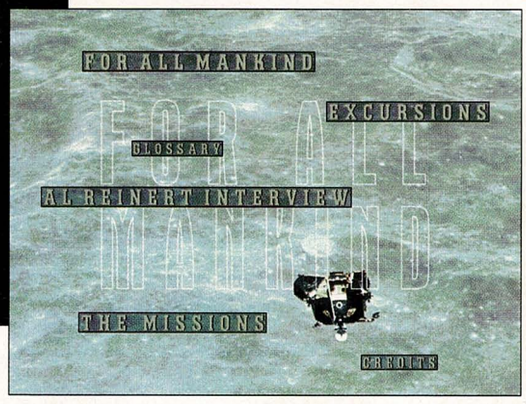
But perhaps what's best about this disc is the sense of atmosphere it conveys. Actual recorded conversations between astronauts and mission-control feature pretty heavily, as does Eno's haunting music, both combining to make *For All Mankind* a valuable, almost personal, record of the 24 astronauts who made the historic Apollo journeys.

The abiding impression is one of great design and high production values, showcasing a series of historic missions. The stills and footage throughout this program are nothing short of breathtaking. I just wish there was more visual material here, because you're left wanting more stunning stills to fill your screen. However, this is a great entertaining and educational title and will be enjoyed right across the board.

ANDY STORER

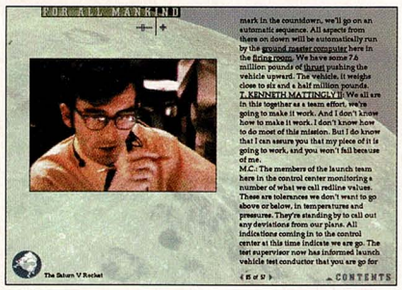
MACFORMAT Classic



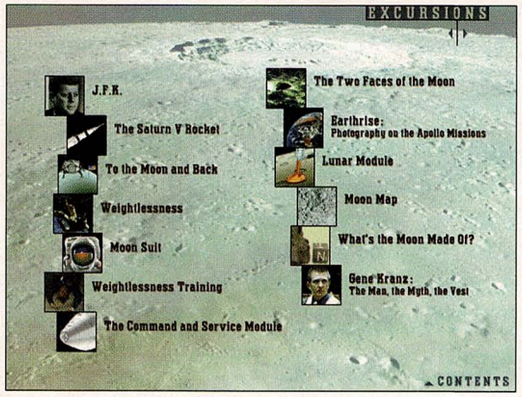


Here is one of the loading screens demonstrating the wide range of materials that *For All Mankind* includes.

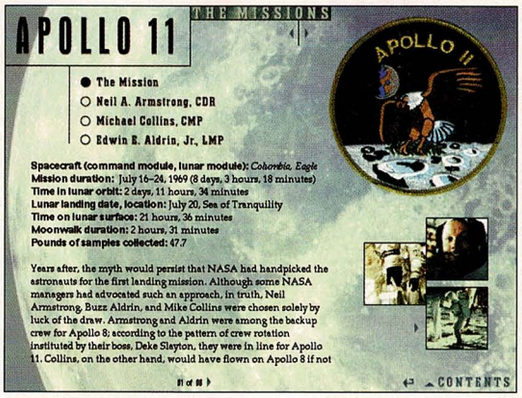
From *For All Mankind's* main screen you can choose to sit back and watch a movie or dip into any of the other areas.



If all this information gets a little tiring you can always sit back and watch the full documentary.



Explore the excursions section and you'll find 13 topics covering every aspect of the Apollo missions.


THE MISSIONS
APOLLO 11
The Mission
Neil A. Armstrong, CDR
Michael Collins, CMP
Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., LMP
Spacecraft (command module, lunar module): Columbia, Eagle
Mission duration: July 16–24, 1969 (8 days, 3 hours, 18 minutes)
Time in lunar orbit: 2 days, 11 hours, 34 minutes
Lunar landing date, location: July 20, Sea of Tranquility
Time on lunar surface: 21 hours, 36 minutes
Moonwalk duration: 2 hours, 31 minutes
Pounds of samples collected: 47.7
Years after, the myth would persist that NASA had handpicked the astronauts for the first landing mission. Although some NASA managers had advocated such an approach, in truth, Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Mike Collins were chosen solely by luck of the draw. Armstrong and Aldrin were among the backup crew for Apollo 8; according to the pattern of crew rotation instituted by their boss, Deke Slayton, they were in line for Apollo 11. Collins, on the other hand, would have flown on Apollo 8 if not
CONTENTS

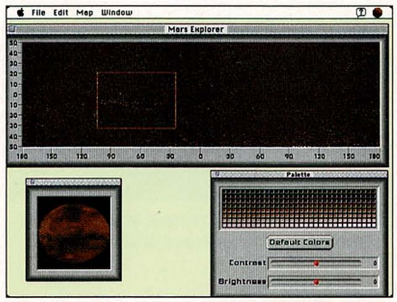
You can also browse through accounts of each individual mission, using the simple point-and-click interface.

FOR ALL MANKIND

Price: £29.78. Out: now
Requires: Any colour Mac (LCIII or better is recommended), 5.5MB of free RAM, System 7, and a double speed CD drive.
For more details contact Softline on 0181 401 1234.

MACFORMAT RATING **90%**

Mars Explorer & Venus Explorer



From *Mars Explorer's* main screen you're able to select an area of the planet's surface.

Is there life on Mars (or Venus) ? Investigate for yourself with these new interplanetary, quite extraordinary discs.

When NASA's Viking Orbiter and Magellan spacecraft made their reconnaissance missions to Mars and Venus respectively in the '80s, they took rather a lot of holiday snaps. In fact, they photographed the entire surface at several levels of resolution. When the material was subsequently processed by NASA, it collaborated with the US Geological Survey to piece together thousands of stills to create a mosaic of the Martian and Venusian surfaces. Virtual Reality Labs took the results and re-processed them into 200Mb of interlinked images at four levels of detail. The results were given an easy to use interface by which you could navigate and zoom your way around Mars and Venus before being transferred to these CD-ROM titles.

Included in both packages is an animated spherical projection of the planets in rotation and the means of overlaying the International Astronomical Union's approved names of objects and places, as well as longitude and latitude lines with labels.

So, true to the title, the name of the game here is indeed exploring Mars and Venus, and here lies the problem. Unfortunately, but perhaps not unsurprisingly, Mars doesn't have a lot going for it. It's red, it has a fair few craters, canyons and mountains, and that's about it. Venus, on the other hand, initially appears to be more interesting, but on closer inspection isn't particularly feature-rich either.

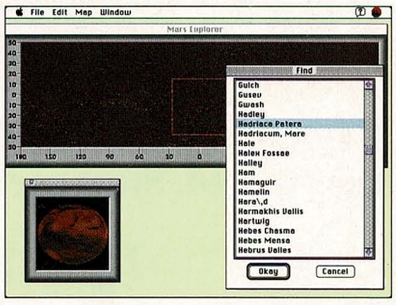
So as the entertainment products they're claimed to be, both *Mars* and *Venus Explorer* don't actually have a great deal going for them. There's so much more that could have been brought to bear to make these programs more fun. For instance, although Virtual Reality Labs has provided a facility for you to save images as PICTs, this could have been improved by enabling you to save sequences out as QuickTime movies. Also, there's no way of scrolling across the face of the planet – what you have to do is select an area you wish to view and then zoom into it. Once you have a full screen image of the detail you can't then move elsewhere; you have to return to the map of the entire surface and repeat the process over again. This is frustrating because scrolling across either planet would have been the most interesting way of finding objects and places of interest.

To its credit, Virtual Reality Labs has included a Find feature and an alphabetical listing of the main Martian and Venusian places of interest, but there isn't any documentation to accompany these sites, so there's no obvious clue as to whether they'll be of actual interest when you finally locate them. It's a pity too that neither title includes a single page of supplementary educational material.

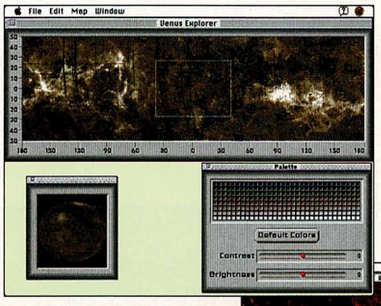
The zoom feature enables you to choose 8,16, 32 or 64 times magnification. You can also view the resultant full screen images with or without spherical correction. Here we're seeing the raw image as shot by NASA.

While the four-level zoom feature works well and the overlays of axis and names adds to the realism, the whole experience is a stop and start affair. If Virtual Reality Labs had gone a step further and included a means of converting the two-dimensional data into a 3D version for fly-bys, then we'd be talking about a much more compelling experience. But as it is both *Mars* and *Venus Explorer* are as dry as the planets they present. This is a great shame, as I'm sure that for the amateur and professional astronomer alike there's plenty of priceless material on offer here.

ANDY STORER



There's also a Find feature that you can use to quickly locate places of interest. Pity then that there is no description of why any of the places are noteworthy.



After the cool red expanses of Mars, the surface of Venus looks decidedly more interesting.

But when you zoom at full magnification into the features much of the detail gets lost.

So here we're looking at Venus in close-up. It is infra-red footage cutting through the planet's heavy toxic atmosphere.

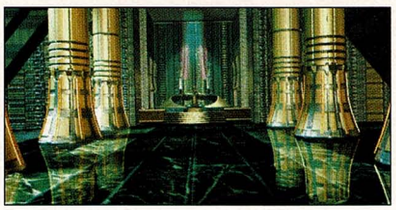
MARS EXPLORER VENUS EXPLORER

Price: £54.95 each. Out:: now
Requires: Any Mac or Power Mac with at least 1Mb of free RAM, System 7 or later, a colour monitor and a CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Meridian on 0181 543 3500.

MACFORMAT RATING 68%

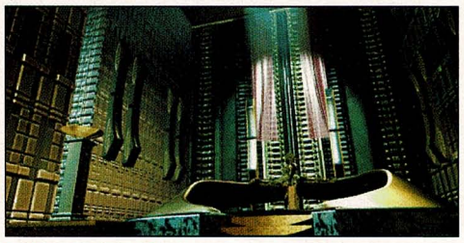
The Secrets of Stargate

You've seen the film; now you can watch the CD-ROM. Behind the scenes with *Stargate* – the movie.



Movie clips and information areas, including a guide to Egyptian myth, are concealed within the temple.

With an introduction consisting of a QuickTime version of the cinema trailer for *Stargate* the movie, *Stargate* the CD-ROM kicks off well. The action is fast and the quality (even though restricted to quarter screen) is superb.



Explore the *Secrets Of Stargate* by entering this temple on an alien world.

Then you're presented with a rather low-key guide to the making of *Stargate* the movie. This guide to how the film was produced is based around a series of interconnected rooms for you to explore. Using your mouse you can easily navigate what appears to be an alien pyramid. You click on objects to call up various aspects of the movie-making process. For instance, one of the rooms contains a chest – click on it and you're presented with a range of stills and text about ancient Egyptian mythology and culture.

Other rooms take you to objects which in turn call up information on the producers, directors, cameramen and art directors. The quality of the rendered locations and photographs is excellent, but sadly the accompanying music – a repeating loop that doesn't change – does get tiresome… but you can turn it off. And when you actually access information about an item the resulting scrolling text box is disappointing in terms of design.

Being able to call up the most exciting moments from the real movie is this CD's best feature. There are 17 clips ranging from one to three minutes in length. Each clip showcases key scenes from the film. There's a great special effects section with 13 clips, each 10 to 20 seconds, of the best computer graphics sequences from the movie, and you can call up details on the sci-fi background to the script if you want that. There's also a series of interviews with the actors, storyboards and dialogues and biographical details of the production team.

All this may sound like nothing more than a marketing exercise to boost sales of the movie, video and book rights, but that is not entirely fair. The Art and Stills section does provide some educational material on precisely how the various effects were created. And if all the time-warping between pyramids gets a little too much, you can sit back and watch the slideshow.

ANDY STORER

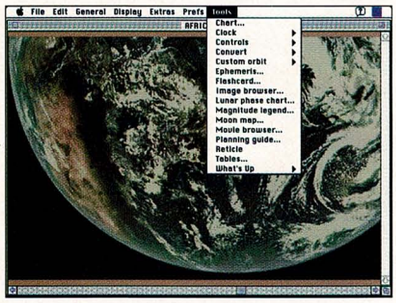
THE SECRETS OF STARGATE

Price: £24.95. Out: now
Requires: any colour Mac, at least 5Mb of RAM, System 7.1 or later, at least a 13-inch monitor, and a double-speed CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Gem Distribution on 01279 822800.

MACFORMAT RATING **75%**

Distant Suns 2

If you're a frustrated astronomer, your problems may have been solved. Start seeing stars with this new CD-ROM.



One of this CD's best features is the hundreds of high-res images you can view – over 1,500, in fact.

This CD is a feature-rich guide for the Desktop astronomer. You can choose to view the heavens from any place on earth, at any time from 4713 BC to 10,000 AD, and from any other planet too. That's just for starters.

Click on the moon to display the information screen – selecting movie, plays a QuickTime clip of the moon.

Where *Distant Suns* excels is in the sheer number of astronomical objects it provides details on – objects most amateur astronomers would never be likely to see. You can display up to 255,000 stars and 2,000 galaxies, nebulas and clusters and just double-click on any of them to call up text information about them. And there's over 1,500 original photos to supplement these. This mass of data is combined with a search engine that enables you to quickly locate any object and print out its position in the sky. Or you can switch to a series of extended skymaps drawing on information from the Hubble telescope and bringing you a database of 16 million stars!

This is more than a dry Desktop planetarium. You can use the zoom and animate facilities to create your own movies of astronomical phenomena. A dozen or so notable astronomical events, such as recent total eclipses and comet fly-bys, are included, so you can create events and view them at any speed from any viewpoint. Plus there's a further 50 QuickTime movies of various phenomena and over 250Mb of PICT files. So as an educational tool there's much to recommend *Distant Suns*; it comes with a good, thorough manual which provides excellent subject background material, and it's fun to use.

ANDY STORER

DISTANT SUNS 2

Price: £39.95. Out: now.
Requires: any Mac with 2Mb of RAM, and System 6.02 or later. A colour monitor and a maths co-processor (Floating Point Unit) are recommended though not essential.
For more details contact Meridian on 0181 543 3500.

MACFORMAT RATING **84%**

Emerald Creative Technology

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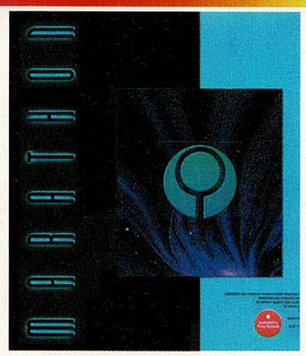

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Music

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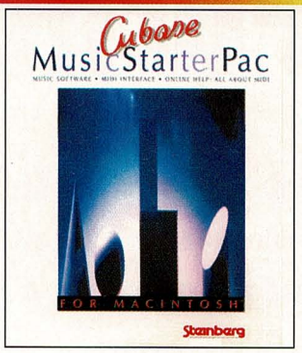

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Musicshop	£134.95
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Arthurs Birthday CD	£29.95
Arthur Teacher Trouble CD	£25.95
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Just Grandma & Me CD	£29.95
Little Monster At SchoolCD	£32.95
New Kid on the Block CD	£27.95
Ruff's Bone CD	£28.95
Tortoise and The Hare CD	£26.95
Silly Noisy House CD	£24.95
Kids Typing CD	£24.95

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Problems: Faulty product will be replaced or repaired if returned within 30 days of purchase. We will refund if we can't repair the goods. E&OE

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54 Wandle Bank
London SW19 1DW

Forget manual labour

Nobody likes wading through manuals, but as software becomes more complex it's practically unavoidable. Or is it? Andy Storer has a look at the alternatives...

There used to be a time when manuals were for wimps; when the best way of getting any software up and running was to load it up and only consult the manual when you really couldn't do something.

Of course, it's a testament to the strengths of the Mac's interface that all Mac software uses largely the same menu structures to achieve varying kinds of functionality. So once you've used one program, getting to grips with any other is pretty straightforward, up to a point. But it's at that point you start to turn to the manuals...

The quality of technical authoring has improved immeasurably over the years, but written explanations can only go so far. And let's face it, who reads an entire manual? Perhaps we all should now, as software is becoming more and more complex; the tools a program provides are just the starting point for a learning curve that extends indefinitely.

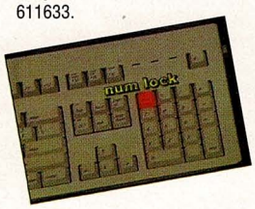
Half the problem with manuals is that, more often than not, you have to consult them while you're using the software in question. If you read them away from your Mac, the subject material doesn't have quite the same resonance. Manuals are fine if you have a particular problem you need help on, but in terms of providing thorough and practical walk-throughs, they begin to fall down.

What's needed is some supplementary assistance. On the basis that you tend to take in far more if you're shown something rather than told something, you'd expect training videos and software to deliver the goods. Over the next couple of pages we'll be looking at a range of videos that set out to teach you everything you need to know about the most popular Mac applications.

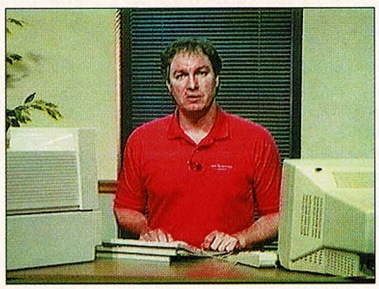
We'll also look at some software-based teaching aids to see how their approach compares. But the point to bear in mind with both videos and software is that the applications they deal with are best thought of as suites of tools – and as with all tools, you can never learn enough about using them. So, in this sense, everyone's on a learning curve – it's just that the beginner's is a little steeper.

MORE VIDEOS

Burgess Videos also makes training videos for Mac software. The videos are £23.50 each or three for £58.69. Titles include: Introduction to the Macintosh, Troubleshooting the Macintosh, *PageMaker 5.0, Word 6.0, QuarkXPress 3.3, Excel 5.0, Adobe Photoshop 3.0, ClarisWorks 2.1, Illustrator 5.5* and *Microsoft Works 4.0.* For the more complex packages like *Excel* and *Photoshop*, there are both introductory and advanced videos available. For more details contact Burgess Videos on 01874 611633.



MACACADEMY VIDEOS



This guy is explaining all about *Photoshop*. He introduces each section on the video.

If a training video is put together well, you can learn while you're being entertained. So the litmus test of a training video is the skill of the instructor narrating the training. The MacAcademy series of tapes is excellent in this respect: the video instructors are experts – not actors or salesmen, but power users.

MacAcademy has a long history of providing seminars, and its instructors have conducted hundreds of these, so you can assume they know what they're talking about. Once you roll the tape, it becomes clear they're able to pass this knowledge on in plain, simple English.

Video as a training source is handy in the respect that tapes can be referred to time and time again. The MacAcademy tapes are time-coded throughout so you can quickly fast-forward to a particular subject without trawling through parts of the tape irrelevant to your needs.

There are a handful of tapes that handle hardware specific areas and general systems software and troubleshooting, but most deal with a particular Mac application. On average, there are four tapes for each piece of software, but for some of the larger applications, like *QuarkXPress* and *Word 6.0*, there are up to six. And when it comes to perhaps the most complex of the lot – *Photoshop* – you're looking at ten videos. By and large the coverage seems to be sufficient. My only concern is the treatment of complex programs like *Macromedia Director 4.0* and *Adobe Premiere 3.0*. These have been given only three tapes, while the straightforward word processing package *Nisus Writer* has four.

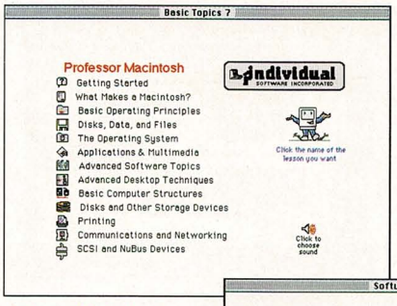
But the depth and extent of the majority of the training videos is good. The first video in each series deals with introductory aspects, starting with installation. You're then taken through the main concepts. The subsequent tapes focus on walk-throughs through each menu item and each function is illustrated with practical examples of each tool or process.

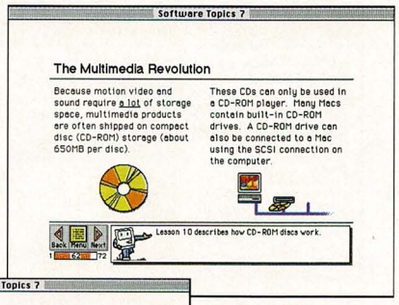
This is a useful approach of course, but it does mean you might have to buy the entire series of tapes. To learn about the smudge tool, clone tool and line tool in *Photoshop*, for example, you have to buy three tapes – each costing £39.95. *Photoshop* has ten videos, and even with the six-for-the-price-of-five offer, buying them all will cost a fortune.

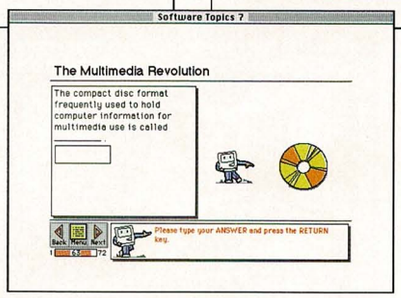
As far as training aids are concerned these tapes are undoubtedly useful – it's just that at £40 each the cost does tend to mount up. But compared to a one day seminar they're relatively inexpensive. A seminar wouldn't give you individual attention and you'd probably forget most of it by the next day.

The tapes don't cover anything you wouldn't find from a thorough study of a well-written manual – it's just a question of how much time and money you're prepared to put in to your training needs. These videos are a useful library reference – the ultimate decision

You can find the section you want by using the time codes that are listed on the reverse of each video.




Software Topics ?
The Multimedia Revolution
Because motion video and sound require a lot of storage space, multimedia products are often shipped on compact disc (CD-ROM) storage (about 650MB per disc).
These CDs can only be used in a CD-ROM player. Many Macs contain built-in CD-ROM drives. A CD-ROM drive can also be connected to a Mac using the SCSI connection on the computer.
Lesson 10 describes how CD-ROM discs work.
Back
Menu
Next


Software Topics ?
The Multimedia Revolution
The compact disc format frequently used to hold computer information for multimedia use is called
Please type your ANSWER and press the RETURN key.
Back
Menu
Next

Professor Mac brings you interactive education on 13 different subjects that you can call up just by clicking on the title.

At the end of each lesson, you're presented with a series of questions to test just how much you've learned.

Each section has a number of cards detailing the fundamental concepts of the Mac, its System software and range of applications.

Professor Mac

Interactive tutorials you load up on your Mac are perhaps a better solution to training than videotapes. Even though learning by seeing is more effective than learning by reading, learning by doing is better still – particularly if the learning experience is reinforced with a series of quizzes and tests that can be configured to check just how much you're taking in. This is the premise behind the *Professor Mac* series of interactive tutorials, and it works quite well.

Professor Mac is pitched firmly at the novice Mac user, although it claims to be of value to the advanced user too. I can't agree with this claim: there's nothing here that I didn't already know. I suspect this would be the case with everyone except the absolute novice. And even then, the manuals that Apple supplies with its Macs are more than adequate to cover the range of subjects that *Professor Mac* deals with. Perhaps though, if you're new to the Mac and are technophobic you may find it of some use.

Professor Mac is divided into 13 lessons, each comprising several topics on a related subject. The interface looks suspiciously like a *HyperCard* stack and you're presented with a series of cards with simple colour illustrations. A voice-over accompanies some of the more interesting parts – like when questions are asked – but that's really all there is to it.

As you can see from the screenshots, both the range of subjects on offer and the detail in which they are covered leave a lot to be desired. In fact, it's hard to imagine who's being targeted here. There's insufficient content to make it worthwhile for anyone other than the complete novice, and yet its assumptions make it too advanced for children. It's probably best thought of as a introduction to the Mac for 11 to 15 year olds.

PROFESSOR MAC

Price: £58.69. Out: now
Requires: a Mac Plus or later, System 6 or higher.
For more details call Gem Distribution on 01279 822800

EASE OF USE 90%
Software doesn't come much simpler than this.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE 50%
There's insufficient detail for anyone but a complete novice.

VALUE FOR MONEY 50%
Much too expensive for the worth of the goods on show.

MACFORMAT RATING 63%

Professor Office

Using an identical approach to *Professor Mac*, *Professor Office* focuses on providing interactive training for Microsoft's *Word 5.1* and *Excel 4.0*. The treatment here is a little more comprehensive – *Professor Office* comes on eight disks, all full of compressed files. And if you use *Word* and *Excel* you'll know that these applications are feature-rich and both come with large manuals. *Excel's* manual has something in the region of 1,500 pages...

Both *Word* and *Excel* are easy applications to get up and running. It's only after you've been using them for a while that you begin to appreciate their breadth and scope. Their powerful functionality is dealt with in great detail in the accompanying manuals. So is there any real need for *Professor Office?*

The answer has to be yes – up to a point. Remember the revision cards you can buy to prepare for school exams? The crucial facts are compressed into single cards, which are easier to assimilate than

Continued on next page

YOUR BEST OPTION

Of course, there are other training options open to you. It's just a case of deciding what's best for your needs. You may prefer the more personal approach that you can get from a training seminar. You could try one of the companies we've listed here...

Mac University
Tel: 0171 582 3702.

Fluency
Tel: 0171 581 8213

Mac Resource
Tel: 0171 739 8410.

Westminster Adult Education Centre
Tel: 0171 976 6211.

Mac Skills
Tel: 0181 203 0026.

Face to Interface
Tel: 0171 837 8787

Digital Support
Tel: 0171 401 8692.

Media Interactive
Tel: 01576 204464.

Media Training
Tel: 0171 359 9855.

depends on whether you feel they'll pay for themselves in the long term. But this appears to be a question MacAcademy is aware of: it offers a full, no quibble, 30-day refund if you're dissatisfied with the video for any reason. That alone must make any of them worth looking at.

MACACADEMY VIDEOS

Price: £39.95 each. Out: now.
Requires: a video recorder!
For more details contact MacAcademy on 0800 834043.

EASE OF USE 90%
Would be even better if VCRs had fast access times!.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE 85%
The tuition is first class and covers just about every conceivable aspect.

VALUE FOR MONEY 75%
A bit pricey if you're after a full set of tapes for one application.

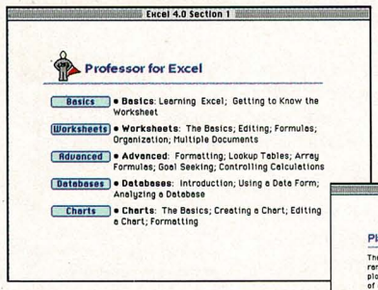
MACFORMAT RATING 82%

MACACADEMY INDEX

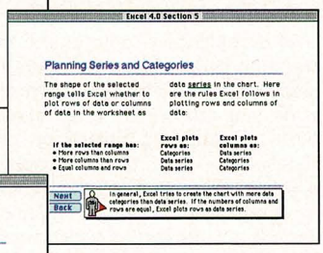
Each subject offered by MacAcademy comes with a number of different videos with running times between 90 minutes and two hours. In each case the first video is an introductory one, with subsequent tapes in the series giving more details and practical tutorials. Each video costs £39.95, but if you buy any six, you pay £199.98 – a saving of £39.95. Upgrades of tapes – to follow upgrades in software – cost £15. The number of tapes varies from program to program. The titles available are Design and Layout – one tape; Desktop to Pre-press, *Persuasion 3.0, PowerPoint 4.0* and *Infini-D* – two tapes each; *HyperCard 2.0, SuperPaint 3.5, Director 4.0, Premiere 3.0, MacWrite Pro*, and Troubleshooting – three tapes; Mac System 7.1, Mac System 7.5, *QuarkXPress 3.3, FreeHand 4.0, Microsoft Works, NisusWriter 4.0, WordPerfect 3.0* – four tapes; *Canvas 3.5, Illustrator 5.0/5.5, Excel 5.0* – five tapes; *4th Dimension, FileMaker 5.0, PageMaker 5.0, ClarisWorks 3.0* and *Microsoft Word 6.0* – six tapes; *Photoshop 3.0* – ten tapes.

VIDEO CHOICE

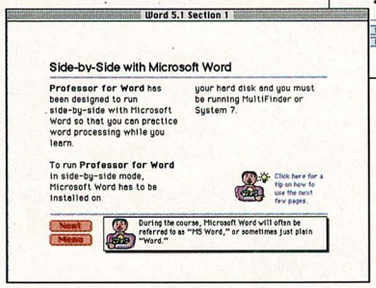
Of course, it's not just MacAcademy and Burgess Videos who make training videos. You could also try the National Training Video Library, tel: 0181 989 6661.


Excel 4.0 Section 1
Professor for Excel
Basics
• Basics: Learning Excel; Getting to Know the Worksheet
Worksheets
• Worksheets: The Basics; Editing; Formulas; Organization; Multiple Documents
Advanced
• Advanced: Formatting; Lookup Tables; Array Formulas; Goal Seeking; Controlling Calculations
Databases
• Databases: Introduction; Using a Data Form; Analyzing a Database
Charts
• Charts: The Basics; Creating a Chart; Editing a Chart; Formatting

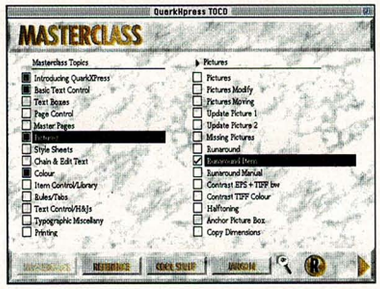
The range of subjects covered by *Professor Office* is much wider than *Professor Mac*. Here we're about to get some online help about *Excel 4.0*



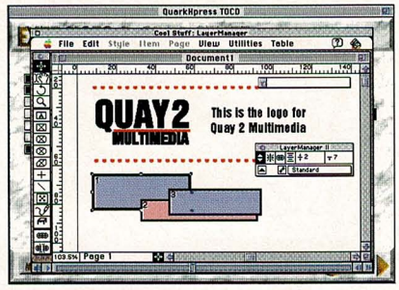
Each topic is covered by a series of cards that act almost like revision cards. Since *Professor Office* only needs 500K of RAM to run, you can have it open while you're actually using *Excel*.


Word 5.1 Section 1
Side-by-Side with Microsoft Word
Professor for Word has been designed to run side-by-side with Microsoft Word so that you can practice word processing while you learn.
your hard disk and you must be running MultiFinder or System 7.
To run Professor for Word in side-by-side mode, Microsoft Word has to be installed on
Next
Menu

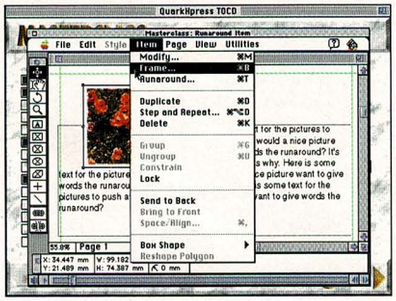
Word 5.1 is also covered in *Professor Office* – and together with the *Excel* training material there's over 7Mb of cards such as this to help you get to grips with these heavyweight software packages.



QuarkXPress Training on CD's Masterclass section enables you to select a topic from the left column and an appropriate subject to it from the right column.



In the Cool Stuff section you're able to call up annotated walkthroughs of some of the more esoteric tips and tricks required to get the most from *XPress*. Here we're being shown one of the 31 demo XTensions that come with the CD.



Make your choice, and a pausable QuickTime movie goes through the selected topic describing and explaining its features, with a good voice-over to boot.

wading through a book. *Professor Office* explores identical territory – treating the essential components of both applications as a series of interlinked cards. It includes a series of questions designed to test your knowledge of the topics you've covered.

Perhaps the best feature of this interactive trainer is that it runs in only 500K of memory. So, you can have *Professor Office* running side by side with *Excel* or *Word* so you can apply the lessons you've learned directly. *Professor Office* works as an added extra to both *Excel* and *Word* and it doubtless has its uses as a form of advanced **Balloon Help**. But it's up to you whether you feel it's justified to spend the additional money on something that's already covered in the original manuals.

OTHER CD TITLES

Apart from *QuarkXPress* training, Quay2 Multimedia also produces training CDs on the following Mac applications:
Photoshop 3.0
Illustrator 5.5
Dimensions 2.0
PageMaker 5.0
Excel 5.0
Microsoft Office
FileMaker Pro 2.1
Clarisworks 3.0
Painter 3.0
Director 4.0
Contact Quay2 on 0171 252 0252 for more details.

PROFESSOR OFFICE

Price: £58.69. Out: now
Requires: a Mac Plus or later, System 6 or higher.
For more details call Gem Distribution on 01279 822800

EASE OF USE 90%
A simple point and click interface that's really straightforward.

EDUCATIONAL VALUE 78%
Excellent in-depth coverage of every aspect.

VALUE FOR MONEY 75%
Not bad, if you can't be bothered to trawl through the manuals.

MACFORMAT RATING 76%

QuarkXPress Training on CD

QuarkXPress Training on CD is easily the best of the training materials reviewed here. It combines the strengths of both the videos and software, but features none of their weaknesses. It is crammed full of useful and innovative training components all based around QuickTime movies. These movies are annotated with voice-overs that explain what's happening on a virtual Mac running *QuarkXPress*. So you can head straight for the Masterclass section that features 14 general topics, each sub-divided into a further 14 categories.

Each topic covered features a walkthrough of the feature in question with a 'live' example that can be paused and replayed at any point in the proceedings. Add to this a reference section that explains thoroughly *QuarkXPress's* various menu items, and a quick word search tool that enables you to call up explanations of any particular topic, and you have a training resource that's much more valuable, and much cheaper, than a one day training seminar.

You can run a QuickTime video of any of *QuarkXPress'* menu items and their contents. You also get detailed demonstrations of 31 *QuarkXPress* XTensions, which gives you a CD-ROM that really points to the future of software education. Just type in a keyword, perhaps 'style sheet', and you can immediately see a video explaining that concept. This is very impressive, and precisely what interactive training should be all about. It leaves videos and *HyperCard* stacks lagging way behind.

There's not a lot else that could have been included; you even get a jargon-busting section and a folder full of training exercises that you can use in conjunction with *QuarkXPress*. And what's particularly handy is the voice-over that accompanies the various masterclasses. It's clear and informative, and goes far beyond the actual text on screen to deliver a well thought out overview of the topic in question – an overview that's clearly based on experience. There's just so much included in this product that it can be wholeheartedly recommended. It's a damned sight cheaper than a day's training course, and it'll last a good deal longer. So if you're looking for Mac training, look no further. Basically, *QuarkXPress Training on CD* is nothing short of exceptional. **MF**

MACFORMAT Classic

QUARKXPRESS TRAINING ON CD

Price: £117.50. Out: now.
Requires: a colour Mac, 4Mb of RAM, System 7.
For more details call Quay2 Multimedia on 0171 252 0252.

EASE OF USE 96%
Well thought out and dead easy to use.

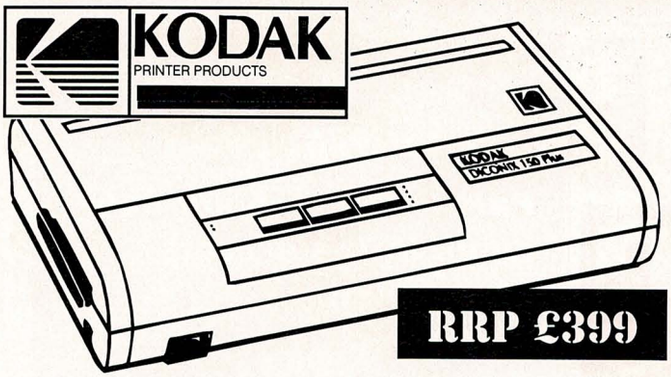
EDUCATIONAL VALUE 95%
Excellent in-depth coverage of every aspect of *QuarkXPress*.

VALUE FOR MONEY 93%
Well worth buying. It'll pay for itself in a matter of days.

MACFORMAT RATING 94%

PORTABLE PRINTER SCOOP

KODAK PRINTER PRODUCTS



RRP £399

Kodak Diconix M150 Plus

Portable ink jet printer for Apple Mac and Powerbook computers; 150 CPS draft, 50 CPS NLQ, quality mode plus graphics (uses plain paper). Inc Macprint M150 print driver plus ATM software inc 13 typefaces.

Mains/battery power (batts extra) - 50 minutes printing.

The M150 Plus weighs just 3.1lbs and measures 2" x 6.5" x 11" - fits easily into a briefcase. **LIMITED SUPPLY**

£99

Please note prices ex VAT & delivery - goods subject to availability,

Morgan Computer Co.

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VideoVision Studio 2.0 .....
VideoVision Telecast .....£CALL
Micropolis 4221 2Gb AV Drive.....£945
Quantum Atlas 2.1Gb AV Drive.....£955

Adobe

Photoshop 3.0 .....£389
Illustrator v5.5.....£279

Apple

PowerMac 6100/**66**.....Prices change
PowerMac 7100/**80**.....with the weather;
PowerMac 8100/**100** .....please call for
PowerMac 8100/**110**.....latest bulletin!
PRICE CUT ON:
PowerMac 8100/80 8/500.....**£1,999**

Radius / SuperMac

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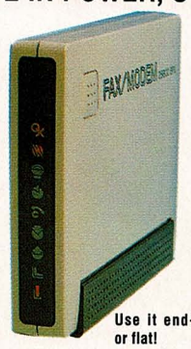

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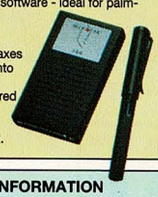

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FUTURE MUSIC

OUT NOW!

Opcode's Overture

A notation and publishing program that works the way musicians think? Ian Waugh scribbles down a few notes and turns them into a professional score... no problem.

MIDI sequencers are fine if all you want to do is record and play back music. But if you are writing songs or producing arrangements, you must be able to communicate your ideas to other musicians. The most universal way of doing this is through music notation.

Unless you've studied music, the splodges, lines and squiggles that pass for notation are as intelligible as hieroglyphics. But there is an order to them and you can probably pick up the basics very quickly. Most musicians can read lead sheets that consist of melody notes and chord symbols, and these are commonly used among bands for putting ideas across.

But if you're scoring for a choir, orchestral instruments, a brass band, strings or a woodwind section, or if you're writing a piano or organ part, then the music must contain not only the notes but dynamics, ornaments, phrase marks and music instructions. These tell the musician everything he needs to know in order to perform the piece, and if the music follows the rules of notation, a trained musician will be able to read it and play it by sight.

But even if you can read music, writing it down correctly is another skill altogether. In any event, you won't be able to match the clarity of printed music. This is where *Overture* comes in. It can help you organise the layout of your music and produce a printed score.

Making overtures

For copy-protection, *Overture* uses a master disk to authorise your hard disk. Installation is very easy, but you really need at least 4Mb of RAM – not 2Mb, as the guide states – and as there is a fair amount of graphics work going on, the faster your Mac, the better. It also helps if you have a large monitor when you're viewing complete pages, but it's not absolutely essential.

When developing *Overture*, Opcode set out to create a scoring system that was intuitive in use and catered for the demands and needs of its users. Consequently, most commands are only a mouse-click or a key-press away and the palettes containing tools and symbols can be torn off and positioned anywhere on the screen.

You can enter notes into the score with the mouse, selecting the duration from the note palette or by pressing keys on your Mac's keyboard. You can record notes from a MIDI keyboard in real-time, or alternatively you can record them one at a time in step-time.

The program handles real-time input very well. You set a quantise value to ensure the notes are moved to the nearest beat so the score looks correct. For complex parts, step-time entry is particularly easy and surprisingly fast.

The Auto Position option ensures notes are automatically put in the correct place within the bar. You can, however, move them afterwards if you wish.

The program is replete with music symbols, including ornaments, articulations, clefs, bar lines, dynamics, alternate note heads, text and lyrics. All these can easily be moved, adjusted and repositioned.

Playing the symbols

Much of *Overture's* terminology is musical, so musicians need not worry about an overdose of computerese. There are lots of nice things about the program's interface, too. For example, when you move the mouse over a note or symbol it changes into a drag cursor, which you use to move the object. You aren't lumbered with separate draw, insert and move cursors – though there is a useful eraser.

If you start to move a note in a vertical direction, you can't then move it in a horizontal direction with the same action and vice-versa. This prevents you mis-

Continued on next page

AVANT GARDE

Avant garde composers, such as Ligeti and Stockhausen, created their own forms of notation that contained electronic waveforms, graphic symbols and long written instructions.

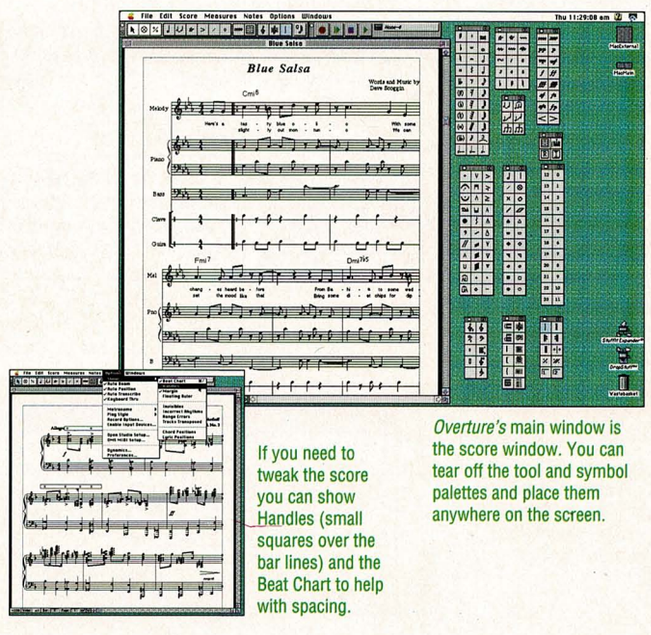
KNOW THE SCORE

The rules governing the layout of a piece of music are old and arcane. Which way do the note stems go? How long should they be? Exactly where should a note be placed in relation to other notes? How much space should there be between adjacent notes? Take into account music symbols, note groupings, slurs, dynamics, ornaments and lyrics and you have a perfect recipe for a messy and confusing score.

There is a big difference between using notation for editing MIDI files and using it to print out music. With MIDI files it doesn't matter if the notes aren't spaced exactly right, and it's not essential to use music symbols and instructions. On the other hand, if the placement of notes and symbols in printed music is not right the music will be difficult to read.

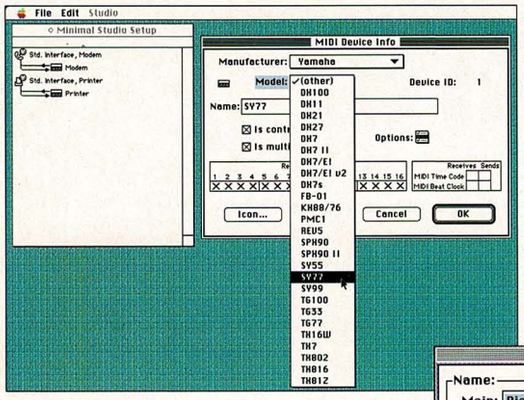
Although musicians may play a score 'as written', they actually make minor changes to the timing and duration of notes. Far from being unwanted, these give the music 'feel'. If you play a piece *exactly* as it's written the result is likely to be flat and uninteresting. Conversely, if we notate a performance exactly as it's played, the timing and note durations will be totally out of whack.

A scorewriter, therefore, must be able to put the notes and symbols in their correct position in relation to each other automatically, but still enable the user to override them if need be. It should take the hassle and guesswork out of creating a good-looking, easy-to-read score. Not an easy task.

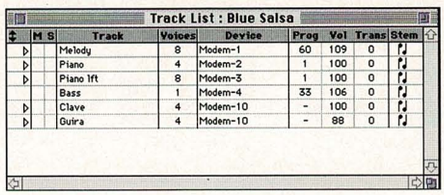


Overture's main window is the score window. You can tear off the tool and symbol palettes and place them anywhere on the screen.

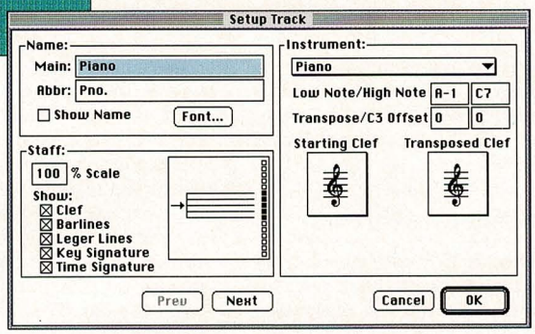
If you need to tweak the score you can show Handles (small squares over the bar lines) and the Beat Chart to help with spacing.



Opcode's OMS tells MIDI software about the equipment in your MIDI setup. You can use the Basic setup (top left) or give exact details of your equipment.


Track List : Blue Salsa
M S Track Voices Device Prog Vel Trans Stem
Melody 8 Modem-1 60 109 0
Piano 4 Modem-2 1 100 0
Piano lft 8 Modem-3 1 100 0
Bass 1 Modem-4 33 106 0
Clave 4 Modem-10 - 100 0
Guira 4 Modem-10 - 88 0

The Track List is where you assign MIDI settings to the tracks or staves. You can select the MIDI channel, sounds and volumes for each track.



The Setup track window enables you to select an instrument for each stave and set various stave, name and note range parameters.

JARGON BUSTERS

Controllers: MIDI data such as pitch bend, modulation, velocity and so on.
MIDI: Musical Instrument Digital Interface. A system that enables computers and MIDI musical instruments to interchange data in a standard format, so that your Mac software can talk to your sound module, for instance, and the sounds are correct no matter which instrument they are played on.
OMS: Opcode MIDI System. A sort of superior version of Apple's MIDI Manager, an environment where multiple MIDI applications are kept informed about your MIDI setup. Enter data about your system in OMS and all OMS applications will have access to that data.
Transposing instrument: instruments such as trumpet, clarinet and horns that play in a different pitch from that notated.

PLAINSONG
In the 6th century, signs to indicate notes were placed over the words in plainsong.

SCALING
In 935 Odo of Cluny, a French abbott, was the first musician to assign letters to the notes of the scale.

aligning a note if the only thing you want to do is change its pitch.

You can also enter several voices on one stave – up to eight, in fact. Piano music arrangements of popular music often have two parts in the right hand. You will also need this facility when scoring for voices.

The program will check the score for bars where note durations don't add up to a complete bar. It will also check for notes that fall outside the range of the instrument they're assigned – very useful if you're writing for orchestral instruments.

There's a pretty snappy chord function that enables you to step through a score, entering chord symbols at the top of the stave simply by playing them on a MIDI keyboard. It's excellent. The program handles transposing instruments well and will automatically transpose a part from concert pitch to the instrument's pitch. There's also a dedicated lyric editor.

In short, *Overture* has an extremely comprehensive range of functions that remain very easy to use.

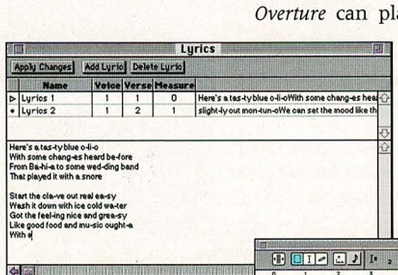
Play MIDI for me

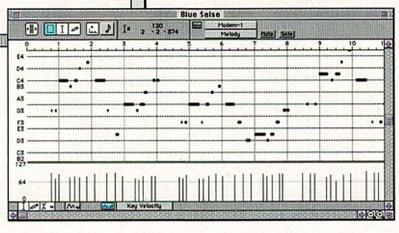
Overture can play scores via MIDI. Each stave is the equivalent of a MIDI track and you can assign it a MIDI channel and program number. The pack includes Opcode's *OMS*, so if you use a sequencer that supports this – and many do – you can select suitable sounds for each track from those in your MIDI setup.

You can import and export MIDI files and the routines that help convert incoming files to notation work very well.

One great feature is that MIDI playback takes into account ornaments – things such as trills and dynamic markings. At the moment it doesn't respond to all music instructions, but it currently does more than many dedicated sequencers and no doubt updates will provide some more functions.

If you need to edit the MIDI data you can do so in a Grid editor that has a Controller editor beneath it. It's not as comprehensive as the edit functions in most dedicated sequencers, but it is enough to let you tweak the MIDI output and it will be enough for many users.


Lyrics
Apply Changes
Add Lyric
Delete Lyric
Name Voice Verse Measure
Lyrics 1 1 1 0 Here's a tas-ty blue o-li-o With some chang-es hea
Lyrics 2 1 2 1 slight-ly out mon-tun-oWe can set the mood like th
Here's a tas-ty blue o-li-o
With some chang-es heard be-fore
From Ba-hi-a to some wed-ding band
That played it with a snore
Start the cla-ve out real ea-sy
Wash it down with ice cold wa-ter
Got the feel-ing nice and grea-sy
Like good food and mu-sic ought-a
With e



Overture's dedicated Lyrics editor makes it easy not only to enter lyrics, but also to align them with the notes in the score.

You can edit the notes MIDI-fashion using the grid editor. The Controller editor below, here showing note velocity, lets you edit MIDI controller data.

Prints charming

There are lots of page setup options, including a couple that automatically fit the score into the page size selected in the Page Setup dialogue box. The program uses a special font to print the music, and the output for this on a laser printer is very good indeed.

You can capture a part of the score and save it as a PICT or an EPS file. You can also import PICT images, a feature that enables you to create custom symbols.

There are three manuals: a Getting Started guide, a Reference manual and an Encyclopedia. Getting Started takes you through the main functions of the program. Work through this and you're half way to mastering it. The Encyclopedia lists *Overture's* functions using music terminology, so you can quickly look up terms such as Grace notes, staccato, pick-up measures and so on. There's also a full manual on the *OMS*.

Niggles are remarkably few and mainly restricted to the way some of the symbols behave, but there's nothing serious to complain about.

Overture is an extremely accessible scorewriting program with excellent MIDI playback facilities. If your main requirement is to produce high quality printed scores rather than MIDI sequences, I think you'll probably find this hard to beat. Recommended. **MF**

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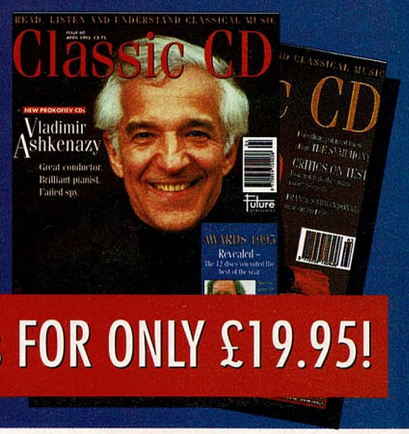

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■ **Inside:** Multimedia special – how to join the CD-ROM revolution; Natural Media techniques; reviews of *7th Guest* and *Flying Nightmares*

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■ **On the disk:** *GrayStation; Vistapro* demo; *Quill*
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■ **Inside:** art on the Mac, including reviews of *Dabbler, Fine Artist* – and the Wacom, CalComp and Summagraphics tablets; reviews of *Vistapro* and *ClarisWorks 2.1*

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September 1994

■ **On the disk:** *ColorStation 2* and *HomePublisher* demos
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■ **Inside:** our guide to weird Mac software; plus reviews of *Multimedia Workshop, HomePublisher* and *Return to Zork*; plus a foreign correspondent's Mac story

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■ **Inside:** discover how to future-proof your Mac with our top add-ons; reviews of *Sensory Overload, Wrath of the Gods* and *WordPerfect 3*; plus *Ritz Payroll*

ISSUE 18
November 1994

■ **On the disks:** Internet software bundle; troubleshooting utilities
■ **On the CD-ROM:** *ClarisWorks 2.1; Rebel Assault* and *Sensory Overload* demos; 200Mb of utilities
■ **Inside:** How to beat those startup problems; plus *Norton Utilities 3* vs *MacTools 3;* plus review of *ThemePark*

ISSUE 19
December 1994

■ **On the disk:** Hot action with *Wolfenstein 3D; Kid Pix*
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■ **Inside:** The lowdown on accelerators; the 20 top Mac games; SCSI troubleshooting; *IntelliTalk*; plus Internet books reviewed

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■ **On the CD-ROM:** Demos of *Premiere 4.0, Marathon, Ghosts,* and *Star Trek: TNG, Technical Manual*
■ **Inside:** Video editing on Macs: how to do it; plus budget games; and what to buy if you run out of disk space

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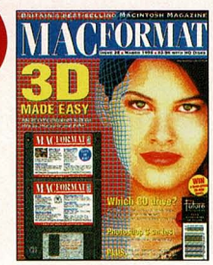


ISSUE 22
March 1995

■ **On the disks:** *Infini-D* demo; *MacConcept; Blobbo*
■ **On the CD-ROM:** 3D spectacular; *The Crystal Rainforest; VideoFusion*
■ **Inside:** How to create 3D images on your Mac; *Photoshop 3.0* reviewed; font problems solved; CD-ROM drives tested; and the most realistic flight sim ever

ISSUE 23
April 1995

■ **On the disk:** *Oh-no! More Lemmings; StuffIt Lite 3.5*
■ **On the CD-ROM:** Comics collection; *PAWS; Sources of Faith; Marathon*
■ **Inside:** Comics on the Mac – interviews, reviews and how-to's; *FreeHand* v *Illustrator*; colour printers; reviews of *XRes* and the best Mac game ever, *Marathon*

SHAREWARE AND PD

If your software budget is rather tight, here's Derek Smith with his pick of the best of the month's shareware to keep you and your Mac smiling.

Our covermounted CD-ROM contains all the shareware on these pages

There's something for everyone this month. Well, except maybe if you don't own a Mac. We've got games, we've got fonts, we've got utilities, and we've even got a sentence I don't know how to end. Anyway, on with this month's best and worst software from the Internet...

MooMooEncode 1.5

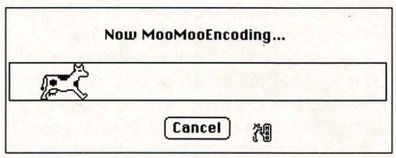
ENCRYPTER

Freeware

Data security is a very important part of the modern life of a spy. Code books and secret phrases, such as 'the dog has a windscreen with swan attachment', are old hat in the computer age. Spies today have the option of using computer encoding programs. These take a text file and encode it so it can't be read until it is decoded by another computer.

There are a range of encoders available, but this one's free. And with budgets being tightened in MI5, this is sure to get their attention. Of course, they could use expensive shareware and not register it, but that would probably be unethical for the British Secret Service, all of whom are jolly decent boys (and even girls nowadays).

Here's what you do: take a text file,



Keep your files secret from everyone except the odd inquisitive cow by using *MooMooEncode 1.5*, a curious freeware encrypter.

use *MooMooEncode* to encode it, and you end up with a file of apparently meaningless 'moos'. Ideal security for most people, but not advised for The Bovine Enforcement Bureau as the text is perfectly understandable by cows. It's also almost like the intellectual conversations we have with our Editor, which go go something like: 'Moo mOo MoO moo MoO...'

Gibberish – yes. Meaningless – no. This code does actually mean something: the series of upper and lower case letters form code much like binary. So far so fairly useful. But...

A separate and bizarre part of the program converts a text file into, er, cow-ese; the words are pronounced how a cow would enunciate them... if it could talk, that is. Oh dear, I think I'm having one of my funny turns. The Internet is like London. I enjoy visiting, but I wouldn't want to live there.

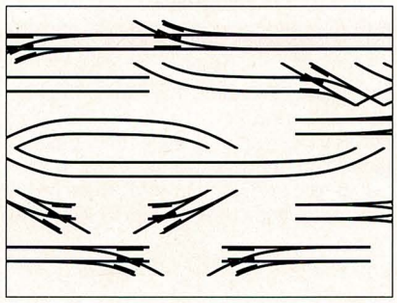
Train Tracks 1.0

FONT

Shareware $10

Back in MACFORMAT 16 we featured a font of trains. Here is the perfect companion: a font of train tracks. You now have everything you need to design and create your very own rail system. It may be useful for miniature train hobbyists to plan their track down the entrance hall, under the kitchen table and around the cat.

The author appreciates the difficulty of sending money to him from outside the United States, so he is quite happy to accept train timetables. I wonder what he would make of BR's efforts? (A small pamphlet of jokes, perhaps?)



You too can create your own simulation of Crewe junction on your Mac. Joy!

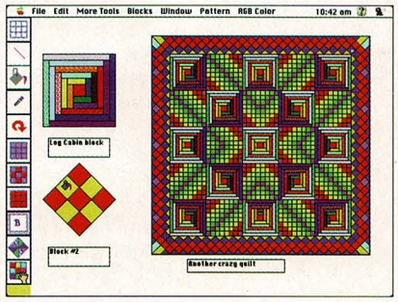
Baby Mac

QUILT DESIGNER

Shareware $35

Why this is called *Baby Mac* I have no idea – what it does is design quilts. Really, really bright ones. Since I had that hideous sewing accident, I don't do much quilting; I can't bear to look a needle in the eye. But this program looks like it could be fairly useful.

Baby Mac has libraries of garish patterns, or you can design your own from scratch. You can have two different patterns in the same quilt, and even an optional border. It's easy to use and in no time at all you'll have everything you need to design some really lovely Christmas presents for relatives and friends.



I know there's an embroidery machine for the Mac, but I don't think it would handle the quilts designed by *Baby Mac*.

Reading Hebrew

LANGUAGE TUITION

Shareware $45

Ever wanted to learn Hebrew? Well here's your chance to master the Jewish language. This is a cut-down version of the full program and only enables you to try a few letters from the Hebrew alphabet. But of course, if you cough up the

Continued on next page

THICKIES

Ignorance is a lack of knowledge. Stupidity is ignorance with pride.
– *Fortune* (see page 122).

ALL TIED UP

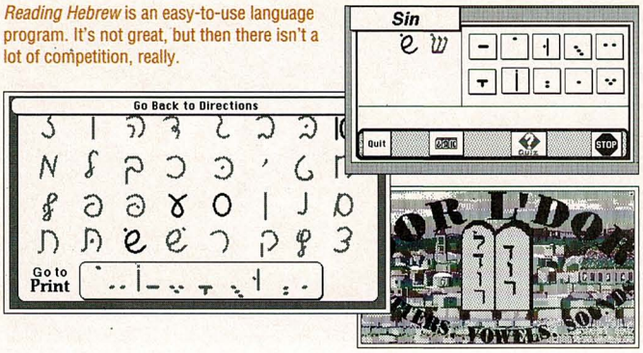
Q. Why do mountain climbers rope themselves together?
A. To prevent the sensible ones from going home.
– *CookieApp* (see page 122).

CONFUSED ABOUT SHAREWARE?

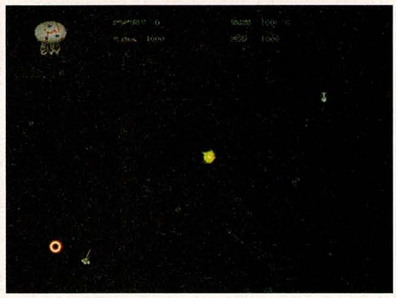
■ **Shareware** is a form of 'try before you buy' software selling and it's a great idea so long as you're honest. When you get some shareware, the documentation file accompanying it will tell you how much it costs – typically it's somewhere between US$5 and $40 – and where to send your money. If you like the software and decide to keep it, then you're morally obliged to cough up. Not only do you get the satisfaction of boasting to friends about how honest you are, but the author will often give you something in return, like a printed manual, or updates when released. The most common problem is sending money abroad, but as many shareware authors now accept credit cards, it's getting easier.

■ **Freeware** means that you don't have to pay for it at all. There are many derivations such as postcardware, which means you have to send a pretty postcard to the author.

But freeware is not strictly the same as **Public Domain** (PD) because although you don't pay for freeware, the author keeps copy right and you have to follow his terms and conditions to use the program. This often means keeping all the files together and not using or selling them for profit.



Reading Hebrew is an easy-to-use language program. It's not great, but then there isn't a lot of competition, really.



SpaceWar looks a bit ragged, and the sound is puny, but hey, that never stopped *New Kids on the Block*.

Letter Learner

NEURAL NETWORK

Shareware $10

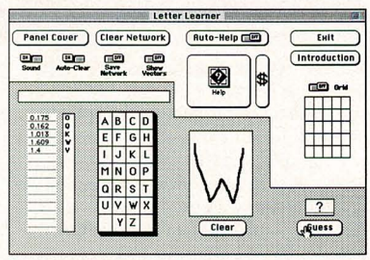
Neural networks sound very cyberpunk and futuristic mind control. In fact, this *HyperCard* stack is a little more harmless. Its job is to learn to recognise and write letters – intelligently. You start by drawing a letter – as accurately as you can draw with a mouse. Unfortunately, since the mouse is a very unnatural drawing tool, my Qs tend to look more like flamingos.

Once you've drawn a letter, you tell the program what it's supposed to be. Then you draw several more letters and tell the program what they are as well. Now you're ready to test its artificial intelligence. So draw a letter, but this time ask your Mac what it thinks it is. Your Mac matches the drawing against all the letters it has learned, matching not only the overall shape, but also comparing key distinctive traits. It allocates a 'likelihood rating' to all possible letters, and it chooses the letter with the highest rating.

At first it delivers its guesses with the accuracy of a tabloid royal exclusive, so you teach it some more. You draw more examples, and slowly the program builds up a more accurate idea of what the different letters should look like – although one problem is that the stack doesn't remember anything between sessions.

This may not sound the most thrilling of sports, but the idea is to show you how computers can develop and learn. As a teaching tool, this could be very useful.

It's also rather unusual to be teaching your Mac rather than the other way around. All I have to do now is convince my Mac that there aren't any flamingos in 'queen'.



Teach your Mac the ABC with *Letter Learner* as you get the chance to educate it.

NEED FOR SPEED

I took a course in speed reading and was able to read *War and Peace* in 20 minutes. It's about Russia. – *CookieApp* (see page 122).

shareware fee you can have the lot.

To demonstrate pronunciation, the program is accompanied by some very dodgy samples, which is rather disappointing when you consider this is quite an expensive program. I wasn't over impressed, but then again I suppose there isn't really much competition for Hebrew tuition programs.

SpaceWar v1.0.4

ARCADE GAME

Freeware

In the old days, if someone insulted your mother, you were duty bound to have a duel, preferably early in the morning with a light mist hanging in the trees. These days we're more sophisticated and can solve our disputes by calmly sitting down at a table... and blasting little icons around a Mac screen.

SpaceWar sends you and a friend into the vastness of your Mac screen to shoot each other. There is a one-player option, but most of the fun of the game comes from shouting 'Gotcha, sucker!' to your sparring partner.

The controls are very similar to the arcade game *Asteroids*. The difficulty setting is changed by adding various obstacles, including a tentacle-waving monster – which looks suspiciously like a jellyfish.

SpaceWar's main drawback is that it's keyboard-controlled. So when I challenged a friend we ended up arguing about who was going to use which keys. We solved the argument by going outside... I shot him. Things are so much more civilised these days.

STREAMLINE

Computers will never replace the wastebasket when it comes to streamlining office work. – *Fortune* (see page 122).

BalancingSystem 1.0

DECISION MAKING

Freeware

Having used this program, I'm still not entirely certain what it does. The author is Egyptian, so perhaps the manual has lost something – or everything – in translation. Or perhaps Egypt is just full of weird people, who knows?

The idea is that you choose a category from a given selection, such as 'happiness', 'transport' or 'waste'. You then decide whether these things are good or bad and tick the appropriate check box. The *HyperCard* stack then tells you which is best. But what for? I haven't worked it out yet. But never mind.

It is free, but it seems very strange that any man would want to use a computer to make his mind up for him. That's what women are for.

QUIET LIFE

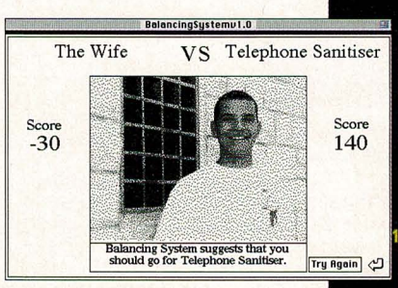
Being a mime means never having to say you're sorry. – *Fortune* (see page 122).

Breeder

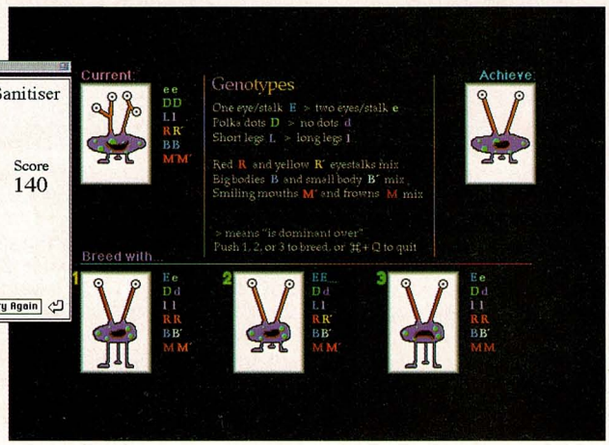
GAME

Freeware

If you enjoy breeding, then this is the best game around. Okay, the second best. The idea is that you start off with a random alien. You then get to play the white-coated genetic scientist and cross breed him/her/it with other different aliens to



I used *BalancingSystem* to compare every aspect of my wife with the nice lady who comes round and cleans my telephone. Oh dear.



Breeder is a game that enables you to try your hand at breeding with aliens. Or then again, maybe your hand is the wrong organ...

SpectreSmart 2.5

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Shareware $5

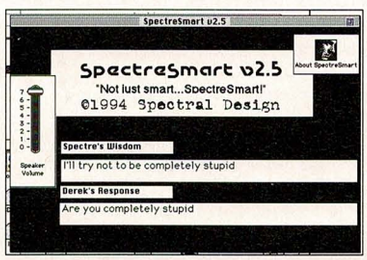
Artificial intelligence doesn't refer to a London taxi driver, but rather a computer's ability to simulate the human brain. Many years ago I came across a program on the Amiga called *Eliza*, which attempted this daunting task. Needless to say, it failed. Completely.

Now, all these years later, a *HyperCard* version – based on *Eliza* – has appeared on the Mac. Fine wine may improve and mature with age, but this program has aged about as well as a brussels sprout, and frankly it's starting to smell.

The program starts by telling you its name. You type a reply. It talks about something it has chosen completely at random. You ask it what it means. It tells you about the pain it has in its diodes down its left side. Yeah, a *Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy* joke – very modern. And after this, it gets even more pointless.

The basic problem is that the program is completely incapable of learning from past experience (instead of being based on *Eliza*, it seems more probable that it's based on Gazza). Admittedly this will be largely due to limitations of *HyperCard*, but then the programmers picked the wrong tool for the job. After all, I wouldn't use a hamster to unblock the sink – well, not after the last time...

The authors of *SpectreSmart 2.5* say that future versions of the program will take advantage of speech recognition built into AV Macs. I can't wait. I'll soon be able to have a pointless conversation with an inanimate object. If I wanted that I'd talk to the Editor occasionally.



I asked *SpectreSmart* how it felt. He answered by telling me not to ask so many questions. Right, you, outside for a fight.

achieve a specific target.

The aliens have plenty of variables such as length of legs, number of eyes, and colour of polka dots. Some factors are more dominant than others. For instance, if there is any hint of short legs in the genetic make-up, the alien will have short legs. To get long legs, you have to breed short legs out completely.

It becomes a fiendishly difficult puzzle game, and will keep anyone happy for hours on end. And as an educational product, it does a very good job of teaching the basic principles of genetics.

On the one hand, this serves as a really good puzzle game, while on the other hand it's an educational game. On the other, other hand it teaches you all about mutations.

Tri-Tac-Toe

GAME

Postcardware

Noughts and crosses is called tic-tac-toe in America. Not for any particular reason – they just like giving things different names from us. We have lifts, they have elevators; we have pavements, they have sidewalks; we have police, they have guns.

Tri-Tac-Toe is three-dimensional noughts and crosses. There are plenty of such games around, but this is my favourite by a long way. Not because it's 3D, not even because you can choose from a variety of rendered playing pieces. No, the reason I love this game is because it's thick. If you place your first piece in the centre square, you stand a 50% chance of winning. If you place your first piece in the corner, you can still win the occasional game.

It's too easy to write a noughts and crosses game and teach it all the rules so you can't win. This is much more fun. Let's hope the author turns his mind to chess and produces a version that I can actually beat.

IQ Test Anim

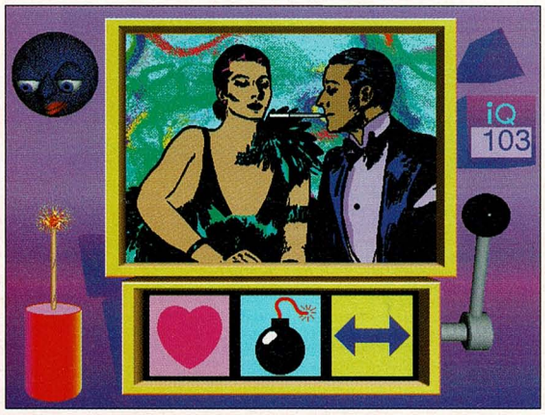
BIZARRE

Freeware

There are two things you need to know about Vince Collins. First, he's... er... a bit eccentric. Second, he's discovered how to put things on the Internet. There are several of his programs (and I use the word loosely) on the Net this month,

Continued on next page

Chess is all right, but if you want a real challenge then just load up *Tri-Tac-Toe*. 'Tough' just isn't the word.



Please do not confuse *IQ Test Anim* with any similar products, such as a slightly over ripe banana.

Batman Forever Judge Dredd
Doctor Who Star Trek: Voyage
r The Avengers Terry Pratche
t Waterworld Babylon 5 Red D
warf Aliens Blade Runner X-F
iles The Prisoner Blake's 7 Sta
r Wars Village of the Damned
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pace Nine Clive Barker The Hi
chhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
Johnny Mnemonic Godzilla Aki
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SAY IT WITH A MAC

Two very similar programs turned up on the Internet this month, both full of sayings that are really, er, interesting. Escape from the boredom of spreadsheets or databases, and take time to read some of these inspirational phrases in the margins nearby.

CLEVER IDIOTS
It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious. – *CookieApp* (right).

MASTER OF ERROR
An expert is a person who avoids the small errors as he sweeps on to the grand fallacy. – *Fortune* (right).

THINGS KIDS SAY
Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said. – *CookieApp* (right).

SCIENCE V NATURE
The goal of science is to build better mousetraps. The goal of nature is to build better mice. – *Fortune* (right).

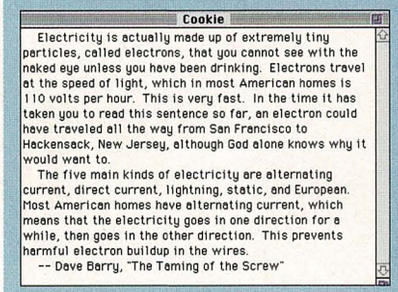
CookieApp

SAYINGS

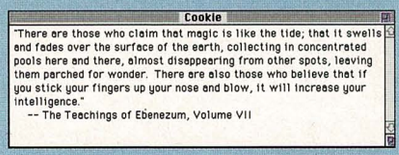
Freeware

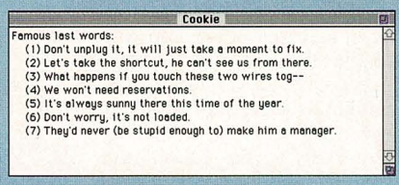
'Insanity is the final defence, it's hard to get a refund when the salesman is sniffing your crotch and baying at the moon.' Very good advice, and there's plenty more where that came from. This program is just a huge collection of sayings, jokes and things that sound like Oscar Wilde should have said them.

It's hardly revolutionary, but it's free, it's good value, and you'll spend lots of time reading it to find pearls of wisdom such as, 'Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.' Perhaps my favourite was, 'If God wanted us to be brave, why did he give us legs?'


Cookie
Electricity is actually made up of extremely tiny particles, called electrons, that you cannot see with the naked eye unless you have been drinking. Electrons travel at the speed of light, which in most American homes is 110 volts per hour. This is very fast. In the time it has taken you to read this sentence so far, an electron could have traveled all the way from San Francisco to Hackensack, New Jersey, although God alone knows why it would want to.
The five main kinds of electricity are alternating current, direct current, lightning, static, and European. Most American homes have alternating current, which means that the electricity goes in one direction for a while, then goes in the other direction. This prevents harmful electron buildup in the wires.
-- Dave Barry, "The Taming of the Screw"

Considering that *CookieApp* contains hundreds of sayings, the quality is surprisingly high. Learn some and impress (?) friends at parties.


Cookie
"There are those who claim that magic is like the tide; that it swells and fades over the surface of the earth, collecting in concentrated pools here and there, almost disappearing from other spots, leaving them parched for wonder. There are also those who believe that if you stick your fingers up your nose and blow, it will increase your intelligence."
-- The Teachings of Ebenezum, Volume VII


Cookie
Famous last words:
(1) Don't unplug it, it will just take a moment to fix.
(2) Let's take the shortcut, he can't see us from there.
(3) What happens if you touch these two wires tog--
(4) We won't need reservations.
(5) It's always sunny there this time of the year.
(6) Don't worry, it's not loaded.
(7) They'd never (be stupid enough to) make him a manager.

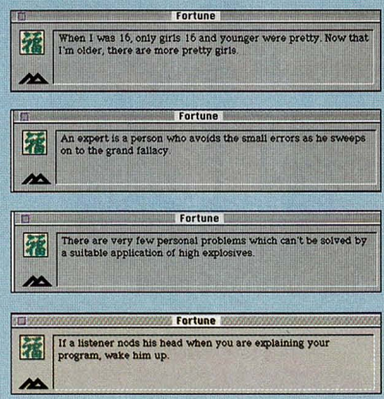
Fortune

SAYINGS

Shareware $10

I still hadn't read enough sayings, so I was delighted to find *Fortune*. Yet again this has hundreds of sayings and quotes for me to waste more time on. The difference here is that the program reads them out loud. Well, it does if you have *Speech Manager*, *MacInTalk Pro* and the other software paraphernalia.

The other difference from *CookieApp* is that many of these saying are rubbish, pure drivel. Some are reasonable, but is anyone actually going to pay for this stuff? Add another saying: there's one born every minute.


Fortune
When I was 16, only girls 15 and younger were pretty. Now that I'm older, there are more pretty girls.
Fortune
An expert is a person who avoids the small errors as he sweeps on to the grand fallacy.
Fortune
There are very few personal problems which can't be solved by a suitable application of high explosives.
Fortune
If a listener nods his head when you are explaining your program, wake him up.

Thankfully *Fortune* isn't one of those dreadful programs that tells your future. It is one of those dreadful programs that tells you odd sayings.

each seeming more bizarre than the last. I picked this one out because it is, at least, more interactive than the others.

As the title suggests, it's an IQ test. But it has nothing to do with IQ, and doesn't test anything. Are you getting the picture? The program shows you ten pictures drawn in a wonderful 1940's American style. Each picture has three icons across the bottom. You have a time limit to click on one of the icons. This prompts an animation, usually along the lines of someone getting their head chopped off, or chopping their own head off.

You are left with the feeling that Vince is one of those people who has been watching too many Terry Gilliam animations. This program clearly proves the need for on-line psychiatrists.

Marathon Hacks

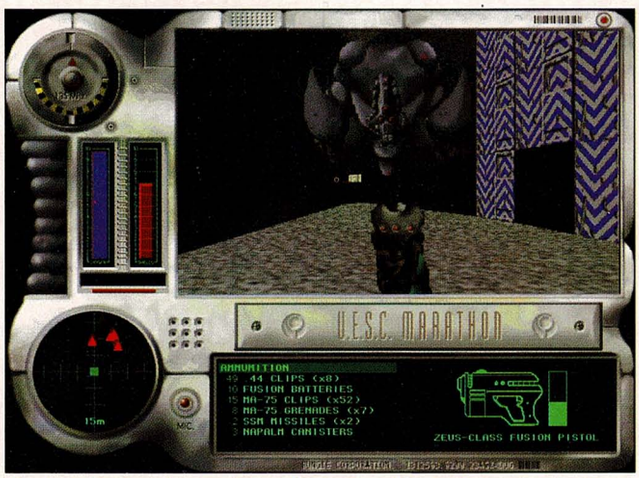
GAMES

Freeware

Marathon, reviewed in MACFORMAT 23, is the greatest game ever. Well, that's my opinion, and judging by the number of *Marathon*-related hacks appearing on the Internet, a lot of other people agree.

There are several useful hacks on this month's CD-ROM, including a couple of replacements for the sounds. *Brutal Sounds* is my favourite, replacing the puny pops and bangs with big hunky roars and kabooms. Blasting aliens is now far more cathartic, particularly when you hit an alien in the stomach with a grenade and you get a wonderful splashing sound.

There are several attempts at mapping all the levels, including one called Marathon Secrets, which maps all levels and nearly all the secret rooms. Another cheat gives you maximum health and weapons. But don't look for them on the CD-ROM – yet. I decided not to include them as I don't want to tempt you into spoiling your fun. **MF**



Okay, I admit it, the main reason for mentioning these *Marathon* hacks was so that I could play the game again in order to get another grab.

WHERE TO FIND THEM

We often get calls from readers who want to know how to get hold of some of the shareware reviewed in these pages. Well, here are some of the methods:

1. Buy the CD-ROM edition of MACFORMAT: all the shareware we review in each issue is on there in a separate folder. There's also loads of other shareware on the CD-ROM every month, sorted into separate categories for you.

2. Write to a shareware dealer; there are several who advertise in the back of MACFORMAT. The dealer should have the program you're after, especially if he subscribes to our CD-ROM edition!

3. Use the Internet, if you have access. One of the best sources around is Imperial College at **src.doc.ic.ac.uk**. Use ftp to connect (login: anonymous; password: your e-mail address) and cd to computing/systems/mac. Personally, I use the umich directory, but sumex is fine as well.

5. Local user groups often have libraries of shareware, so see if you have one near you. There are some listed in our Reader Ads section (have a look on page 138).

Finally, wherever you get your shareware, beware of viruses. At the time of going to press, *Disinfectant 3.5* (on MACFORMAT's CD-ROM) was the best and cheapest way of staying safe.

Mac bargains! Mac bargains! Gitchor Mac bargains... Once again MACFORMAT has searched high and low to bring you the best Mac products at the best prices – no hidden extras, all prices include VAT and delivery! Order now by calling the hotline on 01225 822511.

MACFORMAT promotions

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Ten high density disks, packed with the very best shareware and freeware programs. No demos, just top-notch shareware software. Too many to list, but included are the latest versions of: *Disinfectant, SoundMaster, Apollo, BeHierarchic, FileTyper, Maelstrom, Graphic Converter,* and over 100 more. All programs work with System 7 and a colour monitor – some require them.

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We rate the US Robotics Mac & Fax as one of the best modems around, and now that USR has slashed its prices, we can bring it to you for an extraordinary £200. Only a few months ago, it was £469!

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Need help with ClarisWorks?

If you need to know more than the manual tells you, then try this Black Mouse guide to *ClarisWorks*. Inside you'll find pages of practical advice and worked examples to help you get the most from your software. Special MACFORMAT offer – £2 off RRP.

ClarisWorks book
Price: £7.95
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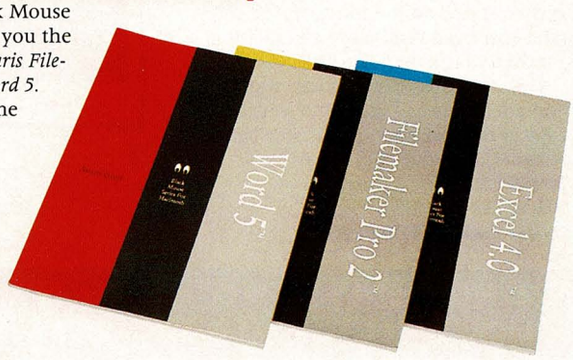
600Mb of programs!

The BMUG PD ROM contains over 600Mb of the best shareware software from all over the world. It is collected by the Berkeley Macintosh Users Group and put on one CD-ROM (1994 edition).

BMUG PD ROM CD
Price: £39.95
Order code: MFBMUGCD

Excel, Word and FileMaker help

In the same series of Black Mouse guides are books teaching you the best of *Microsoft Excel 4, Claris FileMaker Pro* and *Microsoft Word 5*. All are available at the same bargain price.



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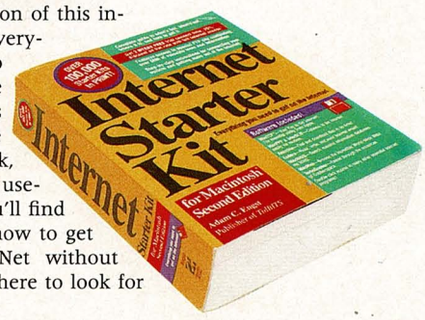
Order code: MFEXLB

Internet Starter Kit

This is the second edition of this indispensable guide to everything you need to know about using the 'Net. The book comes complete with The Internet Starter Kit disk, which is packed full of useful software. Inside you'll find practical guidance on how to get the most from the 'Net without going bankrupt, and where to look for all the latest info.



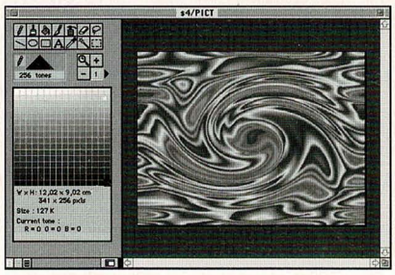
Internet Starter Kit second edition
Price: £27.50
Order code: MFISKIT

Treasure Hunt

(MACFORMAT 20: 90%)

A great multimedia title for kids. A group of pirates – who are also mice – set out in their ship to find treasure. They wander around a treasure island, with some gorgeously illustrated clues, until they find it. The pictures animate and there's music too. A unique feature is the bedtime story mode: the CD-ROM repeats itself at ever-decreasing volumes until your child falls asleep...

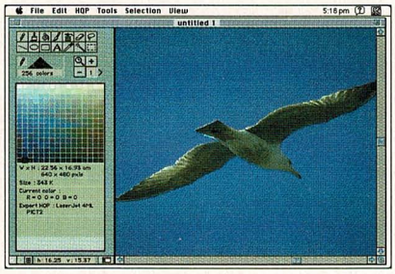
Treasure Hunt
Price: £28.99
Order code: MACHUNT



GrayStation 2

GrayStation is a kind of mini-*Photoshop* for greyscale images. *GrayStation* enables you to take an original image and edit it, altering brightness and contrast. Using the program's own unique High Quality Print system, you can create superlative images that print out better than ordinary scans – even on cheap printers.

GrayStation 2
Price: £39.95
Order code: MFGRAY

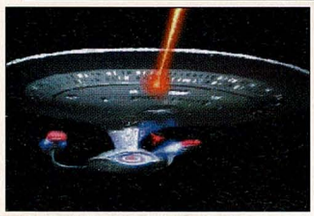


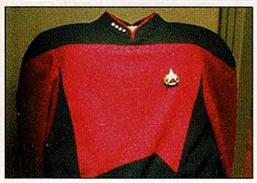
ColorStation 2

(MACFORMAT 13: 90%)

Other software producers could certainly learn a thing or two about ease of use and value for money from Le Pixel. It's hard to fault *ColorStation*. With its straightforward controls, this is an excellent choice for novice DTPers, covering all the graphics and printing bases in a convenient one-stop program.

ColorStation 2
Price: £49.95
Order code: MFCOLS





Boldly tour the USS Enterprise

(MACFORMAT 20: 92%)

A must for techies and Next Generation Trekkies everywhere. A beautiful QuickTime VR video-clip tour of the Enterprise, narrated by William T Riker (Jonathan Frakes). Investigate the bridge, crew's quarters, transporter room – or view the outside of the ship from space! Schematic diagrams and text give masses of information on all the fictional technology you encounter. An excellent and innovative CD-ROM that brims over with fresh ideas.

Star Trek Interactive Technical Manual
Price: £39.95
Order code: MFSTART

Myst

(MACFORMAT 9: 95%)

An adventure that has you exploring an island world with enthralling puzzles to solve and luscious visuals. This graphics extravaganza comes to you on CD-ROM.

Myst
Price: £39.95
Order code: MFMYST

Redshift

(MACFORMAT 19: 92%)

Redshift is the best astronomy program there is, and it will provide hours of fascination for anyone with even the slightest interest in star gazing. It's a brilliantly conceived and excellently presented CD, with some genuinely innovative features. It's all that a budding astronomer needs.

Redshift
Price: £59.95
Order code: MFREDS

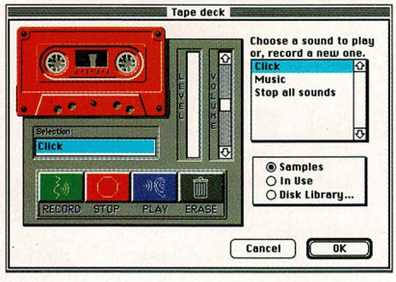
Exclusive HyperStudio offer

(MACFORMAT 14: 91%)

We were so impressed with *HyperStudio*, and its ability to enable any Mac user to create multimedia, that we got together with the UK distributors TAG Developments to offer MACFORMAT readers an exclusive deal on the software. We can offer you *HyperStudio* at just £117 – that's almost £50 less than the RRP.

Note that this offer is strictly time-limited. In order to guarantee yourself a copy at this low price, apply now before it resumes its normal £165 price.

HyperStudio
Price: £117
Order code: MFHYPER



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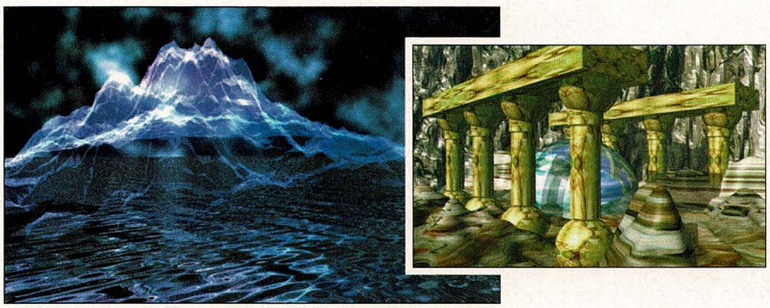


KPT Bryce
SAVE over £35 on RRP

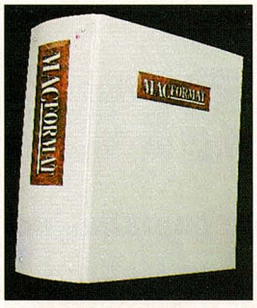
(MACFORMAT 20: 91%)
Produce incredible landscapes on your Mac with *KPT Bryce*. You have complete control over the shape and form of your terrain. Clouds obey your every mouse-click and a storm can be conjured up in seconds. Journey into space; visit unknown planets and their mysterious moons.

Once you've started to use *Bryce* you'll be unable to stop creating wonderful graphics. Reviewed in MACFORMAT 20, *KPT Bryce* scored 91%. It requires an LCII or better, 4Mb of free RAM, and System 7 or later.

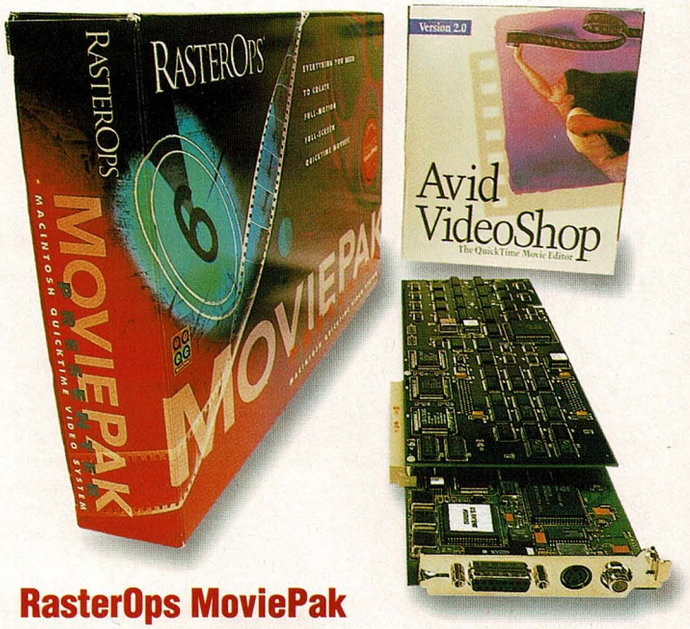
KPT Bryce
Price: £115.00
Order code: MFKPT

Keep it clean!

If you're a regular reader, you'll now have two years worth of MACFORMATs piled high on your book shelf, so to keep them tidy and in absolute tip-top condition, why not store them in a specially designed MACFORMAT binder? Adorned with the familiar MACFORMAT logo, the binder will keep your treasured MACFORMAT issues in perfect nick and give your bookshelves that professional look.



Binder
Price: £6.50
Order code: MFBIND



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MoviePak Presenter is a complete, ready-to-install video record/edit/playback package, with all the hardware and software you need to digitise video images, compress them, edit them and play them back. Its modular design means you can add upgrades from RasterOps as your needs grow.

Includes *VideoShop* – worth up to £350

The bundle includes two plug-in cards that give you 640 x 480 (NTSC) or 384 x 288 (PAL) resolution, hardware pan and zoom, S-Video and Composite input, RGB output to an optional Video Expander, JPEG compression from 2:1 to 100:1, 30 fields per second (NTSC) or 25 fps (PAL) capture and 60fps playback. Also included is RasterOps' own software for capture and playback, Plug-ins for *Photoshop* and *VideoShop*, plus *Avid VideoShop 2*, the comprehensive video editing software suite. Requires: Mac II or later, one 14-inch NuBus slot, at least 8Mb RAM, 80Mb hard disk, System 7, 13-inch colour monitor. Normally £1,995!

RasterOps MoviePak Presenter bundle
Price: £999.00
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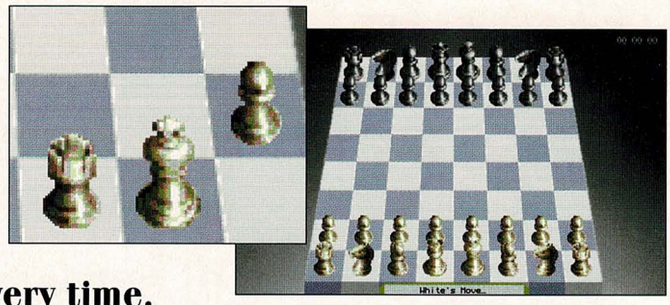
Sargon V



Sargon's viewpoint is at about the right angle but the pieces are poorly defined, so they're difficult to make out when tightly bunched behind each other.

Yet another chess program that'll stomp on you every time. But can it rival *Chess Champion 2175* or *ChessMaster 3000*?

Most chess games for the Mac have one thing in common: if you're not G Kasparov then they hammer you every single time. Many leading contenders such as *ChessMaster 3000*, *Chess Champion 2175* and *Sargon V* all offer a level of strength around the 2,100 mark (Kasparov scores 2,750, and an average club player 1,400).

Features aren't particularly thick on the ground here – *Sargon* is a no nonsense chess engine, stripped of all unnecessary frills.

All these games are therefore very difficult to beat. Unless you cheat. Fortunately all of them provide the single most important feature in any chess program – the facility to take back moves. Without this, even strong club players would be regularly trounced.

Most decent chess programs also have a range of other essential features, such as multi-level and tournament play, hints, notation and classic games libraries. So far that makes them all pretty similar.

What differentiates them are their embellishments – multiple board and piece designs, spoken commentaries, animated replays, animated figures even. None of these frills are necessary; all you need for chess is a good clear view of the board and a monster of an opponent. That's what you get with *Sargon V*: a stripped-down, no nonsense chess engine that's out to slaughter you. It's more than a monster of an opponent – it's a complete and utter set of asterisks. And not very likeable either.

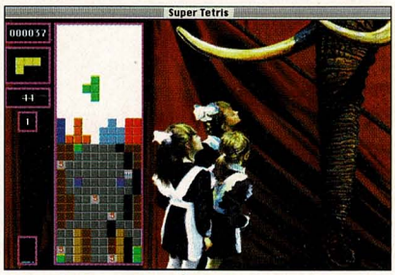
For starters, the music you get when loading the program is dire in the extreme. It sounds like it was composed on the Sinclair Spectrum. You even have to type in a copy-protection password each time you play it – a hassle.

More importantly, the view of the chess board is too cramped. You can flip to a standard 2D display, but the whole point of a modern chess program is to offer a lifelike simulation. And if you can't easily see exactly which pieces are which, or where they are, you lose the sense of spatial awareness that you need for playing chess.

It's a pity because *Sargon V* is a good chess program at heart. Its Mate Finder and Tournament Play features are especially strong. Plus, you can set a time limit – or not – and adjust its strength to more manageable proportions. On the other hand, it has a limited tutorial com-

MacBestsellers

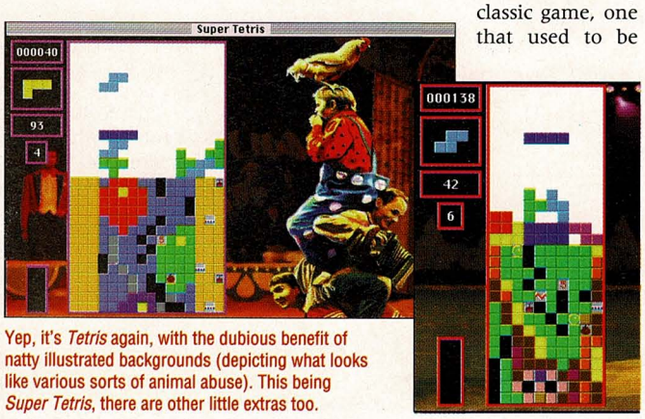
Three 'classic' games on one disc. Like a music compilation, it could be manna from Heaven or brimstone from Hell...



The world-famous *Three Girls Staring at the Front Bits of an Elephant*, by Niordeffski, just one of the many classics not on show in *Super Tetris*.

Compilations are a fine idea in theory: several classic games for the price of one. Where can you go wrong? Well, if they are old bestsellers (like these), chances are you've got at least two of them, played them to death, and left them to rot in a cupboard somewhere.

MacBestsellers comprises one absolutely classic game, one that used to be sort of a classic, and one which was never classic, by any stretch of the imagination. The first is *Super Tetris*. Now, describing the workings of *Tetris* to anyone vaguely computer-literate over the age of 15 would be like describing how to tell the time, or tie shoelaces, so we won't insult your intelligence.



Yep, it's *Tetris* again, with the dubious benefit of natty illustrated backgrounds (depicting what looks like various sorts of animal abuse). This being *Super Tetris*, there are other little extras too.

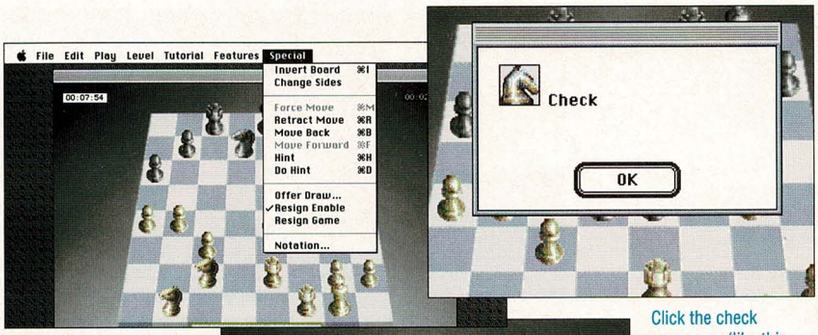
Super Tetris takes yer basic *Tetris* game that little bit further, incorporating 'power-ups', such as bombs, and bubbles to fill spaces, and detonators. But for all the added extras, this is still the game where you frantically attempt to fit falling shapes into lines, over and over and over and over and over and... er, yes. *Tetris* is probably the world's greatest polariser when it comes to opinion – it's either unending joy or mindless boredom. You probably know which camp you stand in by now.

Then there's *Spectre*. When this first appeared in 1991, much was made of its fast-paced, virtual-reality-style gameplay and graphics (and – gasp! – it could be played over a network). Nowadays, frankly, it's about as exciting as grout. You're in a tank, and you trundle about an extremely empty playing arena inhabited by vector graphics, collecting flags and shooting other tanks. Hmm.

After a few levels of flag-chasing and bullet-avoiding, you may start to wonder what else there is to do. After all, the typically hyperbolic manual seems to promise all sorts of virtually real goodies. Don't you believe it – this is a one-note game and that note is already starting to sound annoying; the enemies become more prolific and the time limits shorter, but that's all.

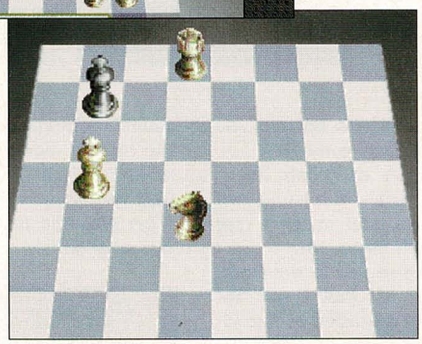
Spectre is reasonably fun when you're playing over a network, but it's deadly dull when you're playing on your own. It's looking old and ridiculously primitive however you play it. Unlike *Tetris*, *Spectre* could never in a million years be described as unending joy.

With a name like *Hellcats Over the*



You can force *Sargon V* to resign rather than play on hopelessly – a useful feature.

Click the check messages (like this one), and you hear poor music and boring human voices, which steadily begin to grate.



You *can* beat *Sargon V* – even if it is only on level one and you've taken back more moves than you can remember.

ponent for beginners, and only ten annotated games for the more experienced. There is a (limited) choice of alternative boards and pieces, but sadly no means of changing the angle or size of view. In a word, it's basic – saved only by its strength of play.

You can save sequences of moves and replay games move by move, so you can at least see how you might have done better. And if you *can* get the upper hand, you can make *Sargon V* resign, rather than play on until it's finally mated – a feature that's often overlooked. But you can't change the playing style of your opponent, and there's nothing as sophisticated as *Chess Champion's* ability to learn as it plays, by adding stronger openings to its libraries.

But, the deciding factor for me was the inadequate view of the proceedings. The sprites that represent the pieces simply aren't clearly enough defined, so you have to struggle to focus on them. And if you can't see exactly what's going on, how on earth are you expected to play with any clarity?

ANDY STORER

SARGON V

Price: £19.99. Out: now.
Requires: Mac Plus or better, 2.5Mb of RAM (4Mb of RAM and 1.5MB of free RAM for colour), and System 6.0.7 or later.
For more details contact Activision on 0181 742 9400.

GRAPHICS 65%
The 3D view leaves a lot to be desired.

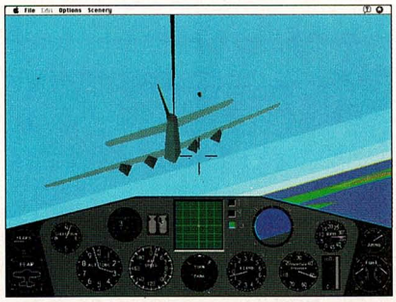
SOUND 50%
The music sounds like was composed on a Sinclair Spectrum.

GAMEPLAY 75%
Pretty basic, but it's a strong opponent.

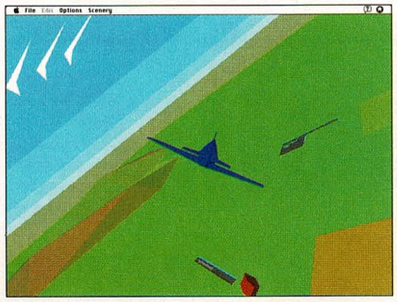
MACFORMAT RATING 63%

CHESSMASTER

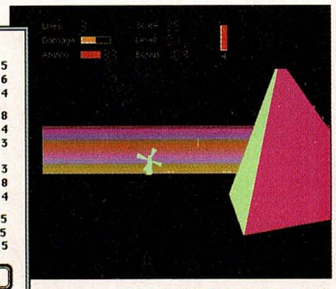
Back in MACFORMAT 18, we reviewed *The Chessmaster 3000*. This superb chess game – originally reviewed in the chess round-up in MACFORMAT 11 – includes narration by Anatoly Karpov, the ex-world champion, of a few of his favourite games. Turn to page 118 to order your back issue now.



This is probably the most impressive 3D shape in *Hellcats*. Fair's fair, it was written four years ago. And now you can buy it all over again. Great.



Just feast your eyes on that... well, greenness, really. *Hellcats* isn't big on scenery. Actually, come to think of it, it's not big on much else either.

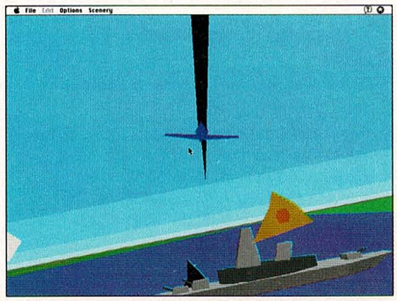


Do not adjust your page - this is what *Spectre* looks like, unfortunately. That windmill in the background is one of the more interesting features.

Pacific, could the final offering be anything less than blistering, gut-wrenching, manic fun? Yep, it certainly could. To be fair though, this flight sim (sans much of the sim) is also four years old, so the graphics are looking a wee bit tired and the gameplay simplistic. This is no *Flying Nightmares*; there are seven whole missions, which involve bombing a building, or maybe shooting at a plane, or just wondering where everything on the ground seems to have disappeared to. *Hellcats* is positively pedestrian, but at least it's easy to get into – and easy to get out of, thankfully.

MacBestsellers is something of a non-starter. The only reason you might want it is for *Super Tetris*, and you'll have that anyway (c'mon, you're a Mac user, you're bound to have it). The other two are worth five-to-ten minutes of play at the most, so the package is hardly a bargain. If there had been five games included, or some newer titles, it might be worth a second glance. As we said, compilations are a fine idea in theory, but sometimes even the best theories don't work in practice.

ED RICKETTS



In *Hellcats*, your plane goes down in a hail of big black stripey lines while firing geometric shapes.

MACBESTSELLERS

Price: £39.99. Out: now
Requires: any Mac, 2Mb RAM, System 6 or later, CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Activision on 0181 742 9400.

GRAPHICS 61%
Four years old, but hey, they don't look a day over three and nine-tenths.

SOUND 54%
Technically there is some. Aesthetically you might call it something else.

GAMEPLAY 57%
Tetris is enjoyable; the others won't last five minutes.

MACFORMAT RATING 47%

PAIN, BLOOD, ETC

The manual for *Spectre* runs to 40 pages, including a marvellously awful novella with such classic lines as: 'Two weeks passed like a kidney stone. Training was tough. It always was. Pain. Blood. Exhaustion.' Yeah, right.

Wolfenstein

The Third Encounter

The shoot-'em-up that caused a storm of controversy is back with a vengeance.

Toast the Nazi swine evenly on both sides, then serve with butter and a choice of jams.

Here we meet the Wolfenstein farewell committee about to hand over your leaving present.

If shooting Nazis is your cup of tea, rejoice. Here are 60 more levels of blood, mayhem and political incorrectness. You play a plucky allied soldier trapped in Castle Wolfenstein, a WWII German prison camp staffed by guards with 'cannon fodder' written all over them.

Try out *Wolfenstein* with the demo on this month's CD-ROM

As an aid to escape I use a high explosive rocket. Sure beats a wooden horse. Colditz was never like this.

You blast away in a 3D maze of rooms and corridors, collecting all kinds of treasure, killing people and trying to find the way out. If this sounds rather like *Wolfenstein: the Second Encounter* (reviewed in MACFORMAT 21), that's because it is. New levels, but no new enemies, no new weapons and no new gameplay

There's been plenty of debate about the politics and morals of a game that centres around Nazi imagery (see 'Apple Talk', page 36). I don't have much to add to the froth, except to say that I was appalled and disgusted by the violent Alsatians in the game...

There are three versions of *Wolfenstein*. The *First Encounter* is a shareware game that you'll find on this month's CD-ROM and on MACFORMAT 19's floppy disk. It contains the game engine and three levels. The *Second Encounter* gives you 30 more levels, and the *Third Encounter* gives you a further 60. To run both of these you must have the shareware version.

When I first played *Wolfenstein*, I was suitably impressed. But now after playing the mighty *Marathon* (reviewed in MACFORMAT 23), going back to *Wolfenstein* felt like watching an old episode of *Doctor Who*. Why did I ever really think that it was so good? **DEREK SMITH**

WOLFENSTEIN 3RD ENCOUNTER

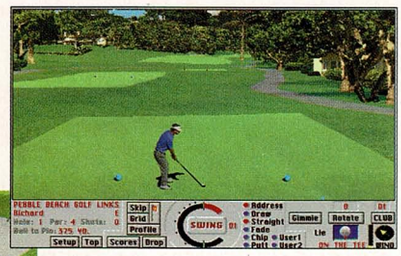
Price: £19.49 (£29.48 with *Second Encounter*, £32.49 for all three *Encounters*). Out: now.
Requires: LCIII or better, 2.3Mb of free RAM, 3.5Mb hard disk, *Wolfenstein First Encounter*.
For more details contact ComputerMate on 01707 875757.

MACFORMAT RATING 78%

Pebble Beach

Golf Links

Pay your green fees – and then some – and step up to the tee on a new *Links Pro* course.



Here we are on the first tee at Pebble Beach – a sight that only wealthy Americans and Japanese tourists normally get to see.

It's hard to imagine a hack from a golf mag having a quick 18 holes at Pebble Beach, and then going back to the office to bash out a review and give the course a percentage rating. But that's what's going to happen here – virtually, of course.

You can spend so much time savouring the different views, you can forget that you're supposed to be playing golf.

Your golf writer would tell you that Pebble Beach has been the venue for three US Open Championships, and is to host the 100th playing of the event in the year 2000. And he'd give you some dull-but-worthy stats, like: the course is a 6,799-yard par 72 (36 out, 36 in) monster; there are four par threes and the same number of par fives for you to tackle; etc. All very interesting for stat-lovers out there.

The course is a classic golf venue, and on the Mac it's a similarly sumptuous affair, with sea, sand, trees and pebbles lovingly recreated with high-res graphics. If you've got the original *Links Pro*, which came with just one course, chances are that by now you're desperate for some variety. So *Pebble Beach* is a welcome extra, if an expensive one. 25 quid is a hefty price for a single course, especially when you consider that *PGA Tour Golf* comes with four courses supplied as standard. **RICHARD LONGHURST**

Ah, the joys of golf – sun, sea, sky, sand and six irons. Actually, mine's a G 'n' T at the 19th hole.

PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS

Price: £25.99. Out: now.
Requires: LC or better (not PowerBook), 4Mb of RAM (8Mb recommended), 4Mb disk space, System 6.0.7 or later, 13-inch 256-colour monitor, and *Links Pro* (see MACFORMAT 18).
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MACFORMAT RATING 65%

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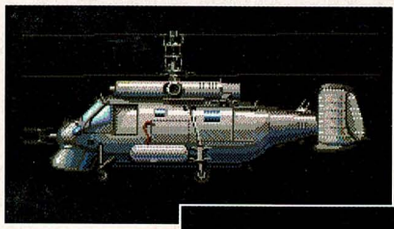
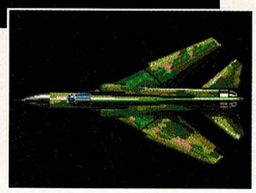
Harpoon Classic

The old seafaring strategy game has had the barnacles brushed off it and been repackaged on CD-ROM. But is it really a classic war machine or just a rusty old ironclad?





If you're a navy buff, *Harpoon Classic* provides interesting profiles of every vessel and aircraft that appears in the game.

THAT OLD SEA DOG

Harpoon was first released in Britain five years ago – although only on the PC. The Mac version followed about 18 months later.

Forget majestic bows cutting the waves of the North Atlantic and the mayhem of missiles raining down on hulking cruisers. Forget the action and glamour of being a Navy seal infiltrating and destroying an enemy aircraft carrier. *Harpoon Classic* is not about patriotism, speed, or fearlessness – it's about strategy.

What you're out to do in *Harpoon* is tactically to defeat a computer opponent. Playing the Commander-in-Chief of either Soviet or NATO naval forces, you choose your theatre of war and scenario, then set out to fulfil the orders given in a briefing.

The best thing about *Harpoon Classic* is that with 200 preset scenarios on the CD, there's a huge variety of situations and missions to choose from. You can zip in for a quick 45-minute patrol of the Norwegian fjords, or you can take on a massive five-hour campaign to flush enemies out of the Mediterranean.

Try it for yourself with the demo on the CD-ROM

Despite the vast number of scenarios, many of them are far too complicated and slow to play. You can easily splash down into a mission with about eight limited objectives, involving six groups of seven ships. And that's just your own side...

Worse, many of the scenarios' orders are written in ridiculous maritime-speak, full of acronyms and modern military nonsense. Playing the game, however, is relatively easy.

You have at your disposal two maps – a broad one of the area you're fighting in, and a close-up one that enables you to focus on individual groups. By either mouse or key commands you direct your ships, subs and aircraft, launch missiles, fire torpedoes, or turn on/off the sensory devices essential in tracking your quarry.

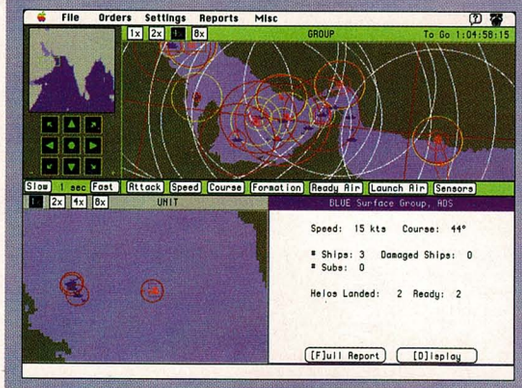
Harpoon's graphics and sounds really aren't much to behold. When you attack, you get puny animations of little blips flying from a ship, and when these blips land you can see them splash into the sea or land on another boat with a little fuzzy explosion and a pipsqueak boom.

Finally, there's the *Harpoon* Scenario Editor. This enables you to make your own scenarios, which is about as easy as playing the game itself. All you have to do is put ships in the water, set them on course for battle, and make up some orders. The frustrating thing about the scenario editor, though, is its tendency to crash often and unexpectedly.

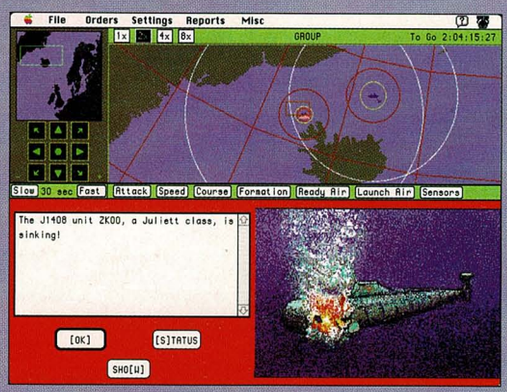
By nature, tactical war simulations require a lot of patience. *Harpoon* is no different. Graphically and aurally, it's dull, but if you find the right scenarios the game can be quite satisfying. Really, though, the release of *Harpoon Classic* is like trying to raise a sunken old galleon. The makers should have included more colour, better graphics, speech and sound samples, etc, rather than so many overhard scenarios. After all, what's a 650Mb CD-ROM for?

GARRICK WEBSTER

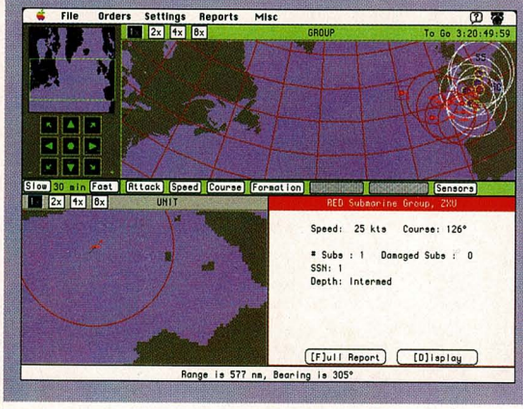
THE FOUR THEATRES OF WAR


File Orders Settings Reports Misc
GROUP
To Go 1:04:58:15
Slow 1 sec Fast Attack Speed Course Formation Ready Air Launch Air Sensors
UNIT
BLUE Surface Group, HQS
Speed: 15 kts Course: 44°
* Ships: 3 Damaged Ships: 0
* Subs: 0
Helos Landed: 2 Ready: 2
[F]ull Report
[D]isplay

Mayhem in the Middle East. It's scenarios like this, with loads of ships in a concentrated area, that are tough and tedious.


File Orders Settings Reports Misc
GROUP
To Go 2:04:15:27
Slow 30 sec Fast Attack Speed Course Formation Ready Air Launch Air Sensors
The J1408 unit 2K00, a Juliett class, is sinking!
[OK]
[S]TATUS
SHO[W]

Icing the Commies near Greenland. This is more like it, chasing down a Soviet submarine as it relentlessly launches torpedoes at you.



The chill waters of the North Atlantic. Here the Soviets clog up merchant shipping lanes during WWIII.

aThe Mediterranean, centre of Western Civilisation, is also a centre of heated naval warfare in this scenario – though as it's a wargame, not a sim, you're cut off from the blood and thunder of battle.

HARPOON CLASSIC

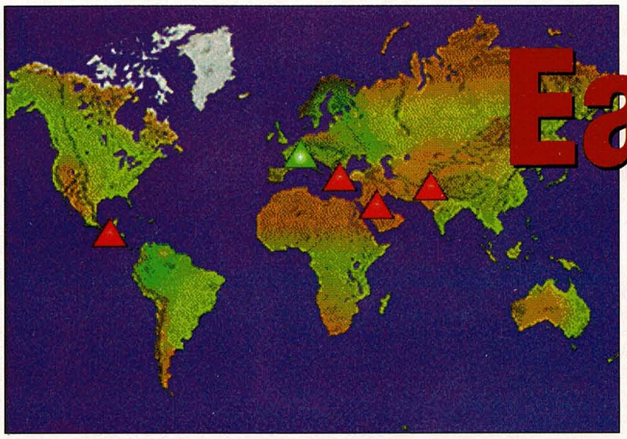
Price: £29.99 Out: now
Requires: LCII or better, 4Mb of free RAM, System 7.0 or later, 2Mb of hard disk space, colour monitor, and a CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Warner Interactive Entertainment on 0171 391 4300.

GRAPHICS 31%
Not very colourful, not very big and no real variety.

SOUND 38%
Sonar, crackly explosions, national anthems. Boo hiss.

GAMEPLAY 69%
Hunting down ships is fun if you load up the right scenario. It was always going to be slow, though.

MACFORMAT RATING 57%



Earth Command

If you were in charge of the whole wide world, would you spend your days moving little knobs about to adjust percentages? No, probably not...

The idea of this game is that you're sitting in a giant orbiting space station, looking down upon the nations of the Earth. They look peaceful enough but, this being an 'edutainment' (shudder) package, something more sinister is afoot. Earthquakes, floods, plagues, famine, pollution, war, deforestation... All these things are ravaging our planet, and it is your job, as the head of operations of ECOM (Environmental Command), to deal with them.

Now, how do you think you're going to go about this? By exterminating eco-terrorists with a powerful space laser? By rebuilding cities block by block in the manner of *SimCity*? By setting out on an absorbing point-and-click adventure to uncover corruption deep at the heart of the United Nations? By sending teams of special vehicles, International Rescue-style, to deal with natural disasters as they happen?

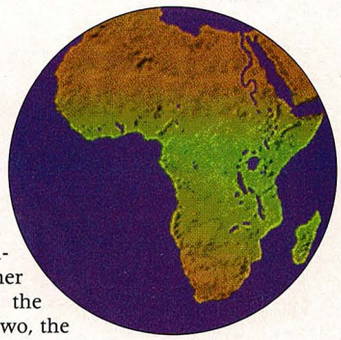
Actually, none of these. You do it by controlling the budget and policies of the UN, moving little sliders up and down to adjust taxes, allocate money to appropriate areas, and encourage ecologically-sound thinking. This is, as you can doubtless imagine, stiflingly dull.

But in fact it doesn't stop at the UN's budget. Clicking on bits of the map enables you to zoom in on individual countries and – yes – adjust their budgets too! As it turns out, you're expected to do this for *every single country in the entire world*, fine-tuning the agricultural development budget of Sri Lanka and the loan payments of Andorra until everything's running smoothly. Gagh.

Do the right thing

Meanwhile, warning triangles flash across the globe. Click on one and you're shown a picture or a video clip indicating a catastrophe of some sort, which you're then meant to react to. Except, as soon as you've watched the video clip or whatever, the triangle disappears, so unless you can remember which country it was referring to and where to find that country on the map, you'll be powerless to act. As a month passes every 20 seconds or so, often with several disasters in each, you can't react to them all anyway, and the warning triangles quickly become an irritating irrelevance.

Earth Command is therefore reduced to staring despairingly at the map, idly flitting from country to country and tweaking sliders here and there in the hope of striking a balance between population, pollution, economy and so on, and moving some of the global performance indicators out of the red. But the indication of your success is so vague (a score between +100,000 and -100,000 in each of six categories) that it's impossible really to know whether you're doing the right thing or the wrong thing. And after a year or two, the chances are another video clip will tell you you've been fired – without actually bothering to explain why or anything.



It's a terrible game, then. But is it educational? Well, to be able to play *Earth Command* your prospective student will need a firm grasp of economics and ecology. It's unlikely that the game will be able to teach him any more, being more likely to deter him from such things forever. And as for the overall ecological message, he can simply turn on the television to have that drummed into him in far more entertaining ways.

The UN probably has computers to do this sort of thing.

JONATHAN DAVIES

This photograph is here to demonstrate the depletion of the ozone. And let's face it, there's nothing worse than having your ozone depleted...

This chap is your boss at ECOM. He lets you know how you're getting on, and tends to be rather rude.

The 'space cam' provides shots of the world from your position in orbit. It's difficult to see the point of this. Nice view though.

These sliders can be moved around to impose harsh and punitive taxes on the people of the world.

EARTH COMMAND

Price: £39.99. Out: now.
Requires: LCII or better, 5Mb of RAM, System 7.0 or later, double-speed CD-ROM drive.
For more details contact Softline on 0181 401 1234.

GRAPHICS 78%
Everything looks fairly smart.

SOUND 60%
Recorded voices etc.

GAMEPLAY 40%
More of a thankless chore than an entertaining game.

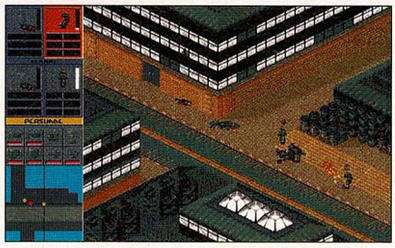
MACFORMAT RATING 45%

MY EARS

One of the greatest threats currently facing the Earth is noise pollution, caused by the spread of pop music. This is not represented in *Earth Command*. Nor is the effect on global warming of men with long hair.

Gamebusters

You too can triumph over the evil Empire with justice, the Force and Gregory Brine on your side.



We've got more cheat codes to help you get out of sticky situations like this in the mighty *Syndicate*.

Play any level of *Rebel Assault* you like with MACFORMAT'S complete guide, plus more backhanders for *Syndicate*. And can anyone stop Derek before it's too late?

Long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away... Zillions of people wrote in response to our plea for more codes for LucasArts' blaster. It's the biggest pile of solutions we've had for any game so far, including previous time-wasting champ *SimCity 2000*. Thanks to everyone who wrote in, whether it was with a couple more levels or an impressive full set on all difficulty settings – but the first to send in every code was **Gregory Brine** of **Loughton** in Essex. He wins five pounds for his trouble, and the codes appear in all their glory right here (see the box below).

If even Beggar's Canyon is proving too difficult to let you mount a *Rebel Assault*, help is at hand.

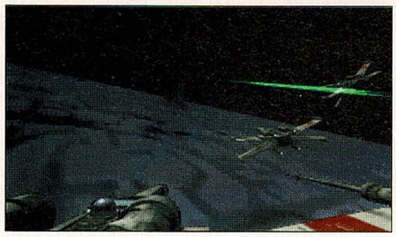
Rebel Assault

If you must do things the hard way, then **Tancred Canfil** of **Oxford** has completed the flying time that makes life in an X-Wing easier. Tancred wins five pounds for these tips: 'Keep low in Beggar's Canyon,' he says. 'You'll take corners a lot easier. When the fork approaches, go left – the overhead bridge should be less of a problem. On section two, keep your ship two thirds of the way down the screen and watch out for the rocks.

Why rely on the stupid ol' Force when you've got level codes to get you out of scrapes like this?

'On Asteroid Field Training, don't go after every ice asteroid – only shoot the ones that may get in your way.

Imperial Probe Droids is simple so long as you know which directions to take at the forks – go left, left, right, left and left again.



No level code's going to help you just metres above the surface of the Death Star, but Tancred Canfil can.

'In the Death Star Trench, fire at the gun clusters on the first pass. You really need the joystick or mouse for the tricky corners of the trench run. When you come to the shield generators, aim at one, hold fire and quickly move from left to right to get most of them. When you come to the final part where you need to use your missiles, ignore the guns and just aim for the target.'

Tancred's suggestion for TIE Attack is, 'Shoot it! Shoot it! Shoot it!', but I'm sure you'd figured that out.

Syndicate

More help for frustrated players of Bullfrog's epic of cut-throat business dealing and gratuitous blood-letting, courtesy of **Einar Eidsson** from **Grundarstig** in Iceland. Type any of these codes into the Company Name box.

TO THE TOP awards you bucketloads of money and all the weapons; **NUK THEM** enables you to choose any territory on the map; **COOPER TEAM** brings on four fully-armed agents with all modifications and a cryo chamber, all at your beck and call; **ALANS CITIES** skips the first 40 levels or so; and **BARINGS** unleashes a super-agent who plunges your company into so much debt it has to be bought out, but awards your other agents bonuses of 95 million quid. (One of these is a lie.)

Einar, I'm not sure a crisp British fiver is going to be a lot of use to you in Grundarstig, so I hope you'll accept a binder for your sterling work.

He's loose

After his cry for help some issues back, Derek now seems to have got this game-playing gig pretty sussed. He's completed *Sensory Overload*, *Wolfenstein 3D* **and** *Marathon*, and is in danger of becoming just a little smug. This can't go on – someone needs to teach him a lesson. I need cheats or tips to help me master *Marathon* and nail his sorry green ass before he gets out of control.

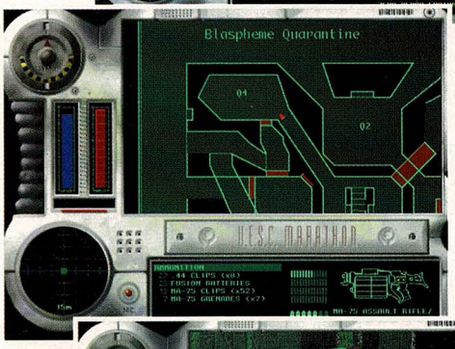
We give five pounds for each cheat, hint or tip we publish – or a game for a full solution (more of these coming soon). Send your letters to Gamebusters, MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2BW.

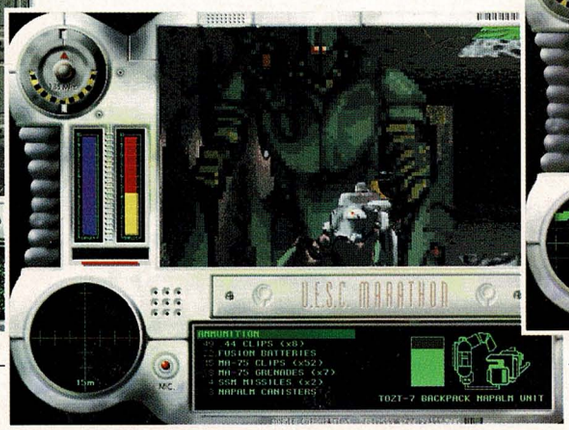
RICHARD HILL

DIRTY CHEATING REBELS STRIKE BACK

Here are the codes for all the levels of *Rebel Assault*, courtesy of reader Gregory Brine.

Chapter	Easy	Normal	Hard
2: Asteroid Field Training	BOSSK	BOTHAN	BORDOK
3: Planet Kolaador	ENGRET	HERGLIC	SKYNX
4: Star Destroyer Attack	RALRRA	LWYLL	DEFEL
5: Tatooine Attack	FRIJA	LEENI	JEDGAR
6: Asteroid Field Chase	LAFRA	THRAWN	MADINE
7: Imperial Probe Droids	DERLIN	MAZZIC	TARKIN
8: Imperial Walkers	MOLTOK	JULPA	MOTHMA
9: Storm Troopers	MORAG	MORRT	GLAYYD
10: Protect Rebel	TANTISS	MUFTAK	OTTEGA
11: Yavin Training	OSWAFL	RASKAR	RISHII
12: TIE Attack	KLAATY	JHOFF	IZRINA
13: Death Star Attack	IRENEZ	ITHOR	KARRDE
14: Surface Cannon	LIANNA	UMWAK	VONZEL
15: Death Star Trench	PAKKA	ORLOK	OSSUS
16: The Finale	NORVAL	NKLLON	MALANI





Win the best Mac game ever

Last issue we rated *Marathon* the greatest Mac game ever, and now we have ten copies – each worth £58 – to be won, courtesy of Softline. Plus lots of goodies for 140 runners-up!

Marathon is the huge sci-fi game from America that is receiving massive praise from everyone, including us – we gave it a rating of 94% in last month's review. The whole game is played in a super-realistic three dimensional environment aboard the spaceship Marathon, which has been attacked and occupied by marauding aliens.

The gameplay revolves around exploring the ship and killing the aliens, but it's much more than a simple shoot-'em-up. To succeed, you'll need to employ cunning and planning, as well as heavy weaponry.

Even better, the game features network play where up to eight people can battle against each other in specially designed levels. Each copy of the game comes with two serial numbers, enabling you and a friend to play head to head. If you don't have a network, then don't worry – setting one up is easy (see page 57 for all the details).

The first ten names out of the hat will receive a copy of the game (worth £58), a *Marathon* poster, plus a Softline mouse mat. Forty more runners up will receive a poster and mouse mat, and there are 100 mouse mats as consolation prizes. To enter, just answer the simple questions below and send in your answers on a postcard or the back of a sealed-down envelope. The editor's decision is final, there is no cash alternative, no correspondence will be entered into and the closing date is Friday 12 May 1995.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the spaceship you're aboard in *Marathon*?
(a) High Jump
(b) Marathon
(c) Javelin

2. Up to how many people can play a network game of *Marathon*?
(a) One
(b) 1,024 across the Internet
(c) Eight

3. How would you best describe the enemy in *Marathon*?
(a) Marauding aliens
(b) Subversive rebels
(c) Disgruntled hamsters

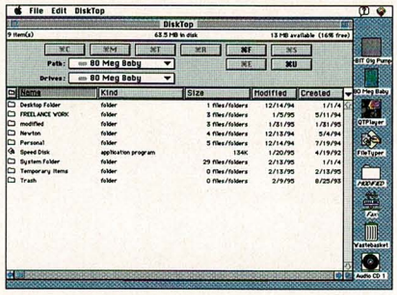
Send your entry, along with your name and address to: In the running for Marathon Compo, MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

PLEASE NOTE...

Employees of Softline, Future Publishing or associated companies, and their families, are not eligible to enter. Multiple entries are not allowed, unless written on the back of a hamster. Please state if you don't want your name added to a mailing list.

DiskTop 4.5

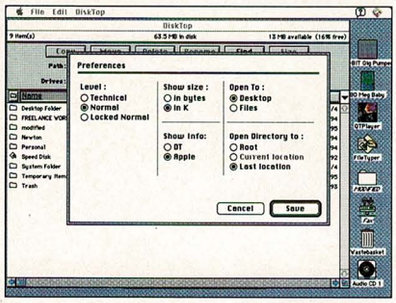
The shareware Finder-alternative that transformed System 6 is back in a commercial version. But is it too little, too late?



Activating *DiskTop* from the Apple menu calls up an alternative Finder from which you can perform a variety of file management tasks. Double-clicking on any application will launch it.

Before MultiFinder and before System 7 there was a handy shareware utility that enabled you to handle filing tasks without having to quit an application and return to the Finder. It was called *DiskTop*. And you can still get it, in this commercial incarnation.

But would you want it? Now that you can just go to the top right-hand corner of the screen and return to the Finder, surely *DiskTop* has been superseded? Well, yes, but *DiskTop* has a few other tricks up its sleeve.



You can also change *DiskTop's* preferences so it displays a more detailed listing of all the files on your attached storage devices or networked volumes.

DiskTop offers the features of the Finder, the **Find File** command, and the **Access Privileges** desk accessory, and makes them all readily available from the **Apple** menu or a user-configured hot key. If you're still using System 6, without the necessary RAM to run MultiFinder, you'll find these file manipulation utilities an absolute boon. But even System 7 users will notice a few valuable enhancements.

How many times do you wish the original was automatically deleted once you'd copied a file from one disk to another? *DiskTop* provides this in a single step, accessible with one hot key. It's the same with other everyday filing tasks, such as unmounting, ejecting, renaming and erasing disks. All become single-step operations.

More usefully still, you can switch to a 'technical' view of your hard disk's directory and see a file's type, creator, data and resource fork sizes, as well as modification and creation dates. This is handy if you want to change the type of a foreign file so you can read it in another application – from an unreadable WP format to 'TEXT', say, which any WP can import.

DiskTop also provides a much enhanced version of the **Find** command. It enables you to search for files across different volumes by name, type, creator, size or creation and modification dates. You can retain a list of all found files and then redefine your criteria if you wish and keep searching. You can launch any found file from within *DiskTop*.

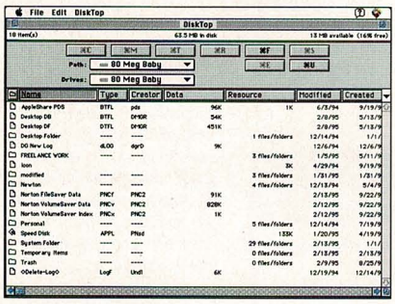
Then there's the facility to add folders to the **Drives** menu, so that commonly used directories are instantly available. Applications you use regularly can be made available via the Apple menu using *DiskTop's* built-in *DT Launch* utility – a stand-alone application, accessible by a hot key. It calls up a window listing those files and documents you've chosen to add to an auto-launching menu. Items can be added easily at any time – even while you're working in another application.

There is also the facility to make aliases, change file access privileges in a network situation and save default directories so they're available each time you load *DiskTop*.

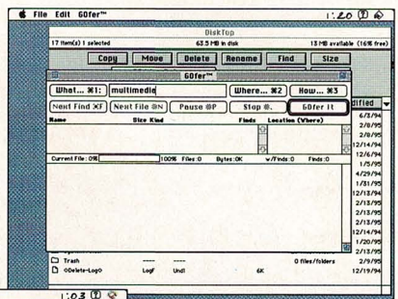
One of the neatest features is a little utility called *GOfer*, which enables you to search text files to locate strings of text, or to browse through text files. Using it, you can not only search all attached drives for all instances of a word, but all approximations of that word too.

Overall, if you're still using System 6, the package is invaluable. If you're using System 7, it still has some useful features to add, though frankly you could gain many of them by collecting a few widely-available shareware utilities such as *File Buddy* or *File Typer* for changing documents' creators and types, *Be Hierarchic* for the ability to launch applications directly from the Apple menu, and so on. But *DiskTop* still has much to recommend it even if you have made the leap to System 7.5. The question is simply whether its bundle of useful functions will speed up your everyday file manipulation and Finder tasks enough to justify its price. That's a question to which only you can decide the answer.

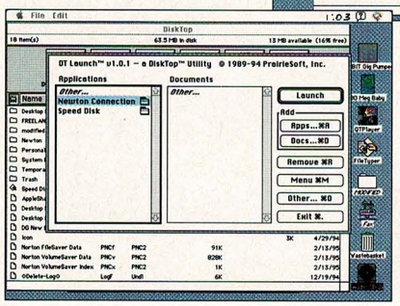
ANDY STORER



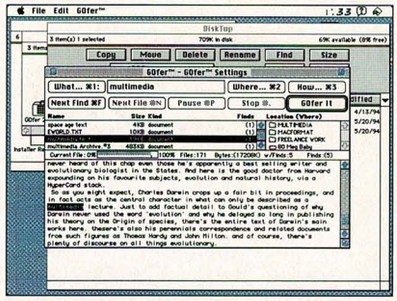
In 'technical' mode you're able to see the type and creator attributes of any file, as well as data and resource fork information.



DiskTop comes bundled with *GOfer*, a small utility that enables you to search text files on attached storage devices for all instances of a word.



Using *DT Launch* you can add applications and documents to a launch list, so they're readily available for loading whenever you want them.



Once the instances of your selected word have been found you can also export them into a single text file or add them to any other document, including one you may be working on.

DISKTOP 4.5

Price:$49.95 (plus $30 shipping); $30 to upgrade from versions up 4.0.2 (inc. shipping). Requires: any Mac, System 6.0.4 or later. For more details contact PrairieSoft. on 00 1 515 225 3720.

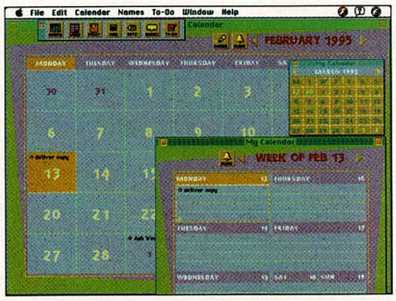
FEATURES 85%
Good range of useful utilities in a single package.

EASE OF USE 86%
Most of *DiskTop's* features are accessible from a single key-combination.

DOCUMENTATION 82%
Clear and thorough, there's nothing here that's too complex.

VALUE FOR MONEY 70%
Would have been a good buy at half the price.

MACFORMAT RATING 77%



Expresso's default startup screen features a toolbar from which you can call up any of its modules. Here you have the calendar utility.

Expresso

Missed a meeting? Lost a phone number? Wake up and smell the, er, personal organiser. Andy Storer looks at one of the latest available, in an attempt to sort himself out.

Get a free taste of *Expresso* with the demo on this month's CD-ROM

The litmus test of any organiser is whether you need to be organised in order to use it – otherwise you just end up resorting to Post-It notes instead. What's needed is a background application that's always available and easy to update and refer to. That's just what you get with *Expresso*.

It's not only functional, it's pretty stylish too. The integrated calendar, address book and to-do-list utilities can be customised from a choice of 20 different styles. The fact that it's from Berkeley Systems, the company behind all those *After Dark* screen-saver modules, may have something to do with this.

Expresso is easy to install, and once on board it's always available as an icon in the menu bar, irrespective of what software you're running. This is a real plus point. How often have you been interrupted by a phone call, with someone asking you if you can make a meeting, only to have to wait for your Desktop scheduler to load before you can find out?

Quick access to your meetings calendar and to-do-list is an absolute must. *Expresso* combines this with a program that enables fast entry of new information like forthcoming events, phone numbers and to-do items. *Expresso* can even be configured to appear as a toolbar, from which any of its modules can be quickly accessed.

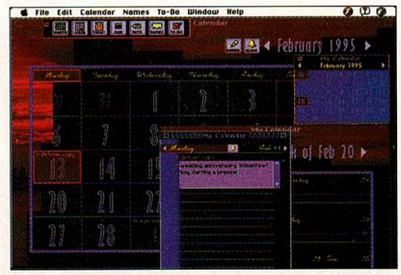
But perhaps *Expresso's* most innovative feature is FlashBack. This enables you to capture an image of your *Expresso* windows and use them as your Desktop background. So on booting up your Mac, all your to-do list items can be seen on screen as Desktop 'wallpaper' behind whatever you happen to be working on. This is great as it means you really don't need to be particularly organised in order to stay organised.

Expresso has all the usual features you'd expect to find in a good integrated personal information organiser. Its calendar enables you to view dates in monthly, weekly, daily and hourly formats, and you can set up alarms for various events and get them to repeat for regular occurrences. Its address book utility is flexible too. It gives you the means to create different books of names, sort them according to various criteria, and locate specific items quickly. The to-do list screens enable you to prioritise tasks, and keep an eye on how things are going with displays of due dates.

Since forgetting about this task will probably result in me speaking in a unfeasibly high voice from now on, I've set an alarm for it to remind me a day in advance.

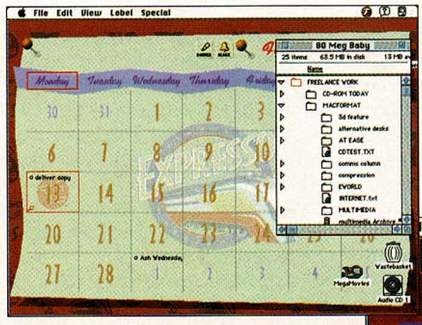
Expresso scores points over some of its competitors, such as the old *Now Up-to-Date* and *Now Contact* bundle, thanks to the ease with which you can create links between its different modules. Sometimes it's the link between an event and the person who will be part of an event which is the crucial factor. If you can't make that meeting with a colleague, for instance, what you need to be able to do is find

Continued on next page

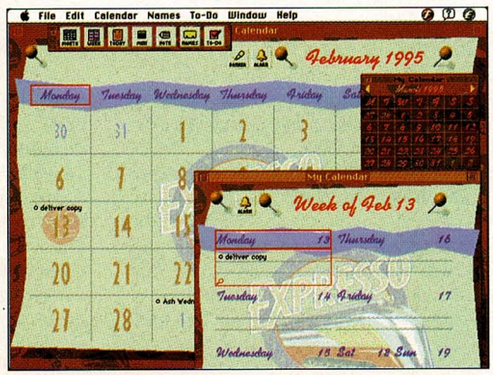


Typing in a new entry is simply a question of double-clicking on the day in question and entering your text in the requester box.

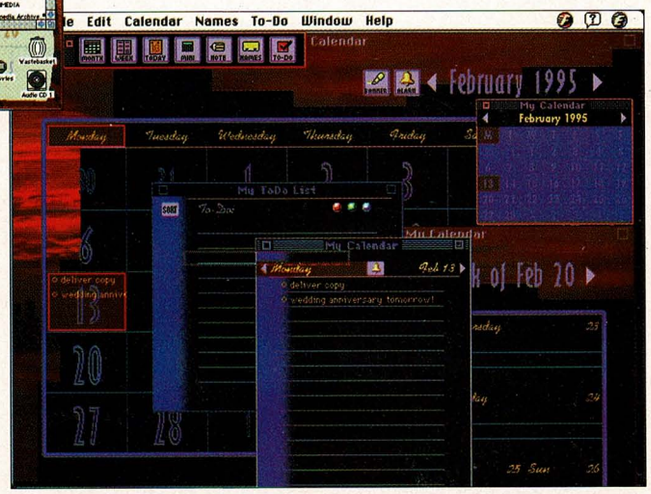
From the preferences menu you're able to choose from a list of 20 different 'looks' to change the entire appearance of all modules. Some have humorous little animations which start up if you've done nothing for pre-set time.



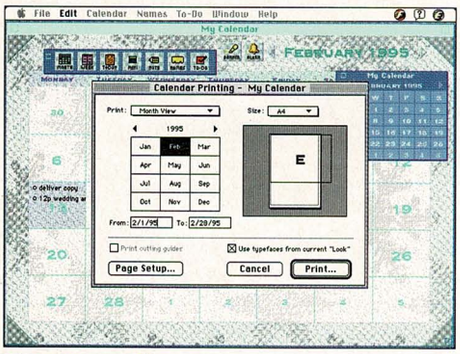
One of *Expresso's* most innovative features is the facility to create Desktop wallpapers of your calendars and to-do-lists simply by clicking on the f icon in the menu bar.



The choice of pre-set styles on offer is certainly varied, ranging from the oh-so traditional to the totally outlandish. There are probably 15 or so you'd want to use on a regular basis though.



The item can then be dragged to your to-do list for the day in question and assigned a priority – in this case it's absolutely vital. So no excuses... right?



Another feature of Expresso is the facility to print out any of its modules in the current 'look' you're using.

that person's phone number straight away, from within the calendar, rather than having to open your address book and locate it. *Expresso* handles this kind of cross-referencing invisibly. Names entered in the address book are automatically given dynamic or 'smart' links with any instance of their appearance in the to-do list or calendar modules. Once a meeting or to-do-item is selected, all you have to is click on a 'focus' icon to call up the relevant details. It's all very efficient.

The synchronising feature in *Expresso* is another innovative feature. This enables you to have calendar information, address books and to-do-lists on two or more separate computers. By copying the files across, the data on each machine will be synchronised with that on the other; update any information and it changes on all machines simultaneously. And since *Expresso* can be deployed across a network, it's ideal for keeping colleagues updated on common client lists and the like.

Also useful in this connection are *Expresso's* built-in privacy options. These enable you to use the program in an office situation where you might not want all your business to be public. As such, you can hide the text and starting times of private events, so they're marked with just the word 'private' and are password-protected. And if you can't do without paper versions of your appointments and to-do lists, *Expresso* gives you full control over how your personal data appears in print.

Do you want the good news? *Expresso* has just halved in cost and now comes in at the absolute bargain price of £29.36. It's well thought out in terms of ease of use, it's fast, it looks good, and on top of that it's got some genuinely innovative features that should help sort out even the most absent-minded Mac owner. **MF**

EXPRESSO

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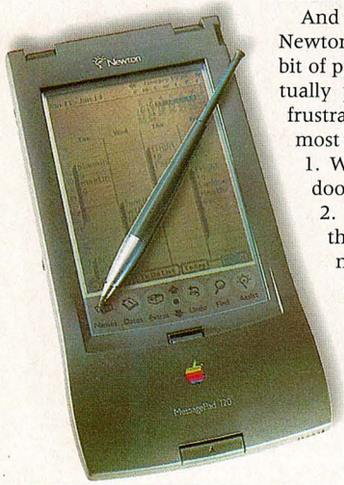
MACFORMAT RATING 91%

The versatile Newton

The Newton is a wonderful machine with so many uses. MACFORMAT reader Joseph Judge explains...

READER'S SOAPBOX OPINION

OVER TO YOU...
The opinions expressed on this page are those of the author, not necessarily those of MACFORMAT or Future Publishing Ltd. If you have something to say, write to 'Soapbox', MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. ASCII text on disk would be nice, but isn't essential. We reserve the right to sub-edit your grammar, but won't alter the sense of any opinions.



The choice was clear. Food and clothes for the kids this year. Or a Newton for you. You bought the Newton, the eight-track tape of the X Generation. It doesn't do anything it's supposed to do. You call Apple, who have good news and bad news. 'Well, Sir, from what you say, there's nothing wrong with the Newton. There's something wrong with you. We're sure that after several millennia, when you learn to use the Newton correctly, you'll be quite pleased. No refunds, must ring off. I'm expecting a call from someone I don't know.' Click.

And they're sooo right. If you bought a Newton, or plan to buy one (guffaw), a bit of patience and imagination will eventually pay off. To save you any initial frustration, here are 22 ways to get the most out of this amazing machine:

1. Wedging a Newton under an open door will keep it from slamming shut.
2. Use the imitation leather cover of the Newton to store a small paper notepad. (These devices are affordable versions of the Newton. They do not require batteries. They instantly store messages and appointments as ink on the page. Inexpensive memory upgrades available in most shops. Just ask for 'paper'.)
3. Got a Newton Connection Kit? Attach the Newton to your Mac. Be sure the Newton is turned off. Leave it turned off. Use the Mac.
4. Nine Connection Kit wires grasped at one end can be used for self-flagellation over your poor consumer judgement.
5. The same wire configuration can be used on Apple executives involved in Newton R&D.
6. In cases of true despair, these wires strung together provide enough rope to hang yourself with.
7. Attention manicurists! The sharp end of the Newton pen can be used to clean under fingernails. The blunt end can be used to push back cuticles.
8. On chilly days, wear two Newton covers on your hands as mittens.
9. More beauty tips... Balance the Newton on your head to improve posture.
10. From almost any angle the screen is unreadable. This is an advantage. Use the screen as a mirror.
11. The PCMCIA slot makes an inconspicuous holder for condoms.
12. The pen holder on the Newton 100 conveniently holds rolled dope.
13. Crack the Newton in half. The font half makes an attractive picture frame.
14. Attention airline personnel! The back casing of the Newton can be used as a tray to hold the small bits of strange substances you call 'an in-flight meal'.
15. The speaker holes in the front make an attractive toothpick holder.
16. Remove Newton's main battery and use in an electric torch.
17. Attention opticians! Business slow? Give out Newtons! Any Newton user will soon become a client.
18. The covered serial port can be used to hold a spare contact lens.
19. Attention law enforcement officials! In dangerous urban areas, Newton's exclusive unreadable high glare screen can be used as a rear view mirror to inconspicuously observe suspicious activity going on behind your back.
20. Whirl around. Strike the edge of the Newton with sufficient force against the throat to disable would-be attackers.
21. Newton's glass is conveniently designed to shatter easily. If the attacker is persistent, use the shards of the screen to inflict further damage.
22. I ill ban cry McKinney yuu trxq'busrvwd. (This final tip comes from Newton itself, using its advanced handwriting recognition software.)

Joseph Judge
Cairo, Egypt

■ ***Anyone else got any smart ideas? There's a MACFORMAT binder for the best three suggestions as to what you can do with a Newton. [Er, no, not that one thank you – Ed.]***

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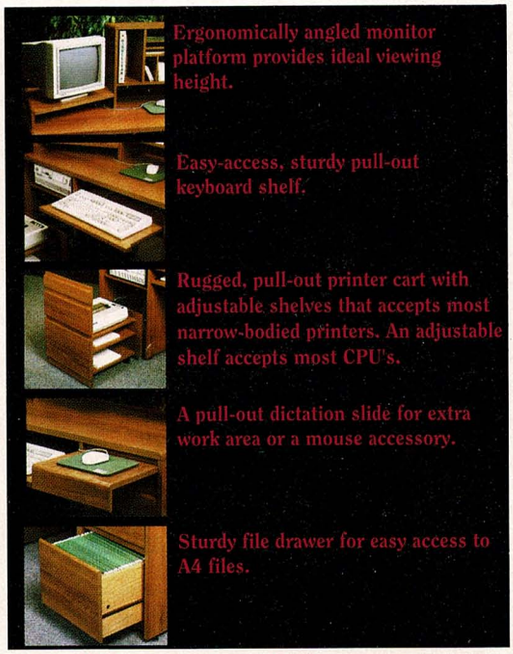

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HARDWARE FOR SALE

■ 660AV 8/500/CD, CPU only, no offers – £1,000. *Cubase Audio* – £450. Kurzweil K2000 V2 keyboard, 8Mb of RAM, perfect – £1,950. Swap Sony MZI for DA7 Casio Wanten Zoom 9010 Peavey QFX 4x4. Contact Ian on 0113 250 0751.

■ Performa 475, *ClarisWorks*, colour monitor, keyboard, StyleWriter II and Mac stand, only seven months old, boxed and in excellent condition, home use only – £1,000 ono. Tel: 01299 822982/403924.

■ Colour Classic 6/80, 512K VRAM, FPU, System 7.1, fully boxed, good condition – £500, or £650 with StyleWriter II printer. Tel: (Dunstable) 01582 660031.

■ Apple ImageWriter LQ printer ribbons for sale, unused, black (2) pt.no.A9G0335 – £7.50; colour (1) – pt. no.A9G0336 – £15. Contact Les on (North London) 0181 349 1176 or 0860 183536.

■ Logitech Scanman greyscale hand-held scanner, complete with *CatchWord Pro* OCR software, boxed, home use only – £200. Tel: 01923 241759 (evenings).

■ Apple Macintosh 2.5/40, StyleWriter printer, modem, System 7.1, manuals, Mac bag – £1,250. Contact Steven on 0141 774914 or e-mail: **ashcraig.school@cam.btx400.co.uk** (after 6pm).

■ LC630, keyboard, display, Fujitsu scan partner junior, two Fujitsu M212A optical disk drives, LaserWriter 320, *TextBridge*, *Clarice 2.0*, *Archis File*, and mouse. Tel: 01292 560687.

■ 16Mb, 72-pin SIMMs – £300 each. 4Mb, 72-pin SIMMs – £60 each. Will work in Quadra 800, etc. Tel: 0131 554 6266.

■ Quadra 610 12/160, 512K VRAM, monitor, keyboards, new mouse, Power CD, HP550C printer, software, manuals, cables, mint condition. Offers around £1,650. Contact Paul on 01956 821735.

■ IIci 8/230 plus 14-inch colour monitor, and keyboard, excellent condition, six months old – £1,400. Contact Greg on 01642 700820.

■ Apple Newton, unwanted Christmas gift, complete with power adaptor, box and instructions – £200 ono. Contact Spencer on 0860 165327.

■ Performa 600 CD 5/80, keyboard, mouse, CD-ROM, 14-inch Trinitron monitor, boxed and in good condition, System 7.1 – £1,200. Tel: (Midlands) 01527 528810.

■ Performa 600 CD 12/230, 14-inch colour monitor, extended keyboard, mouse, lots of software installed, boxed and under warranty, mint condition – £1,500. Contact Tania on 0171 594 5433.

■ Performa 400 6/40, and 44Mb Syquest drive, plus three cartridges, extra software, all one year old – £600 ono. Tel: (Bristol) 0117 953 2249.

■ Caere typist hand held scanner, home use only, boxed with manuals, etc – £200 ono. Tel: 0113 259 0389 (evenings only).

■ Three 256K VRAM SIMMs – £10 each or £25 for all. Contact Scott on 01253 827387 (evenings).

■ Macintosh Quadra 610 4/160, 14-inch colour monitor, keyboard, mouse, System 7.1, manuals, boxed, used for only one month, brand new, lots of software – £1,249. Tel: (Sheffield) 0114 279 7498 (after 6pm).

■ Personal LaserWriter NT with new toner cartridge – £395. Contact Paolo on 01524 411894.

■ IIvi computer only, 9Mb of RAM and math co-processor, 40Mb hard drive, System 7.5 – £375. Tel: 0181 889 1204.

■ Radius 19-inch Trinitron monitor, works with Quadra internal video, multiple resolution support – £500 ono. Contact Tim on 01225 447093 (Bath).

■ RAM for sale, IMb SIMM, 30-pin, 80ns, from LC, two available – £15 each. Tel: 01472 885476 (evenings).

■ LC475 8/160Mb, complete with extended keyboard, 14-inch monitor, StyleWriter II, some software (including System 7.5) – £990. Tel: 01494 527183.

■ LaserWriter IINT, only 32,000 copies since new – £550 ono. Contact Iain Ross on 01305 833900.

■ AGFA focus 5 800GS greyscale scanner – £250. Radius 19-inch TPD19 greyscale monitor – £250. Buyer collects. Tel: (London N4) 0181 340 9651 (weekdays 10-5).

■ Apple 14-inch Trinitron display, boxed and in mint condition, upgrade to 17-inch forces sale – £200. Tel: 0191 2736687.

■ LCII 6/160, keyboard, mouse, microphone, manuals, System software, etc – £450 ono. Power CD with selection of CDs and *Myst* game – £110. Please fax Mr K Arnold on (Kenilworth) 01926 851173 (work).

■ Mac Classic II 4/40, complete, keyboard, microphone, mouse, manuals, box, much software, StyleWriter, Apple external 800K drive, home use only – £600. Tel: (Brighton) on 01273 559 325.

■ Performa 400 8/40, 14-inch colour monitor, one year old, DeskWriter mono/colour printer, *ClarisWorks 2*, *Aldus FreeHand*, other software, MoustickII and some games – £700. Tel: 0114 276 0922.

■ 660A/V 8/500 C/D, *VideoShop*, *Premiere*, *Photoshop*, *Painter*, *QuarkXPress*, *Flo*, *Morph*, DTP and some 3D stuff, etc – only £1,000. *Cubase Audio* – £400. K2000 v2 keyboard, 8Mb of RAM – £1,900. Contact Ian on 0113 250 0751.

■ Quadra 610 20/160, 14-inch high-resolution monitor, LaserWriter 300ntr – £1,300. Will swap for PowerBook 180c 8 or 12/160. Tel: (Blackpool) 01253 292616 or 01378 180908.

■ Mac IIci, 20/80, 20Mb of RAM, 50MHz accelerator, 24-bit card, 14-inch colour monitor, keyboard and mouse, perfect condition – £900. Tel: 01455 234402.

■ Mac LCII 4/40, System 7.1, 14-inch RGB colour display, keyboard, mouse, plus StyleWriter printer, software and all manuals – £725. Tel: 01485 542734.

■ SE30 4/40, System 7.0, new keyboard, mouse – £350. Tel: 01626 864698 (evenings/weekends).

■ Classic 4/40 plus StyleWriter (no Kb) System software, *HyperCard*, loads of fonts and shareware – £550 ono. Tel: 0191 281 1477.

■ LCIII 4/80 with 14-inch colour monitor, mouse, keyboard, mint condition, Light home use – £700 ono. Tel: 0121 742 0145.

■ 14 months old LCII 4/80 with high resolution 14-inch Apple monitor, StyleWriter II, Apple keyboard, mouse, *ClarisWorks 2.1*, System 7.1 – £800. Tel: 0151 708 8430.

■ RAM SIMMs to suit Classic/LC 1MB – £15. 256K – £3. Radius Pivot 8-bit video for SE/30 – £200. Typist scanner – £150. *Kinetics FastPath 4* – £500 ono. Contact Russ Taylor on (NE London) 0181 518 3492 (anytime).

■ Mac Plus, 2.5Mb inc external 800K drive, carry case, software, all manuals,

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USER GROUPS

Need hands-on help with a Mac problem? Want to swap shareware or freeware, or just meet other Mac enthusiasts? Try a user group near you...

■ Artists Bulletin Board now on-line 0181 778 6547. We specialise in obscure software and magazines. It's free. Modem speeds 2400-9600, 24 hrs. (MF24)

■ Blackburn Mac UG. Tel: Roger Moreton on 01254 670043. (MF26)

■ Calling all Mac user groups, programmers and Mac users. MacShare UK is now in the planning stages to start the UK's first support group for Mac user groups and shareware programmers. But we need your input. If you can think of any services your user group could need or would like help with setting up, or if you're a programmer who's having problems with distribution etc, then write to: MacShare UK, Lane End, Oak Tree Lane, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9DA.(MF26)

■ Liverpool Apple UG. Bulletin Board: 0151 949 0307. (MF24)

■ Mac user group, covers all aspects of Mac scene, free membership and monthly newsletter. For details write to Sonic, 11 Charnock House, Lancaster Court, Chorley, Lancs, PR7 1PB. Or by e-mail on Cosmos BBS 'Dave Andrews' (I'm the programming Forum Moderator) or on Portland BBS 'Dave L Andrews', or on the Internet: **sonic@cosmos-uk.org** Don't forget you pay nothing! (MF25)

■ MacBel UG vzw: Belgium's ONLY non-profit Mac user group. We provide bi-monthly magazines, internet-access, local BBS-support (TeleFinder 32-3-4543-069) and meetings. Call Bart at 32-3-640-4031 or e-Mail **liemb@innet.be** (MF26).

■ New Mac user group just starting up. We urgently need Mac-related literature, shareware, PD and new members. Free membership to MACFORMAT readers. Can you donate a BBS program so we can go on-line? Members asked for small monthly contribution to cover cost of BBS lines and newsletters (we're non-profit-making). Interested? Write to The Network, 11 Charnock House, Lancaster Court, Chorley, Lancs PR7 1PB. Or tel/fax Dave on 01257 265025. (BBS numbers will be posted to all applicants once software is obtained.) (MF24)

■ North West Macintosh and Apple user group – Cheshire area, North. Contact Mr George Evans on 01270 583714. (MF26)

■ Nottingham Computer Club. Please send an SAE to Sherwood Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

■ Poole Mac user group. Tel: Bob Lister on 01202 684441.(MF26)

■ SE Essex Mac user group. Contact Michael Foy on 01702 468062.(MF26)

■ Southern Mac user group, Salisbury and district. Contact Roger Ford on 01722 780102. (MF26)

■ Southwest Mac user group, Bristol. Tel: John Elver on 0117 969 3119. (MF26)

■ Sussex user group, Hastings, East Sussex. Contact Garry Nevin on 01424 714110. (MF26)

■ Telematic & Multimedia user group. We are currently looking for new members, please contact Benjamin Stanley on 0121 420 1482. (MF24)

■ The Computer Textile Design Group. The essential link between computer and textile designer. Contact Dee Chester, 12 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne BN21 2HZ. Tel: 01323 725781.(MF24)

■ The Finnish Mac user group (fiMUG) runs AppleGarden, a FirstClass BBS, at tel. +358 0 694 Membership FIM150 pa. Ca.800 members (Sep/94). Send a SAE to fiMUG, PL 122, FIN-00181 Helsinki, Finland for more information (MF26)

■ Sheffield Mac user group starting, seeks help, advice, shareware, etc. Send SAE to Ian Perrin, 35 Dunkeld Road, Sheffield, S11 9HN. (MF28)

■ Performance user group/ newsletter for home users. Non-commercial. Send large SAE for details. REF: MF, 36 Oakfield Close, Laurel Fields, Potters Bar, EN6 2BE.

■ Performance user group/ newsletter for home users. Non-commercial. Send large SAE for details. Ref MF, 36 Oakfield Close, Laurel Fields, Potters Bar EN6 2BE. (MF30)

■ Jerusalem Israel. Tel: Azzedine Downs 972 02 277 376 e-mail: **62876587@e/n.attmail.com** we are just starting.

Groups will be listed here for six issues, then deleted in order to help weed out defunct groups. The code at the end of each entry is the last issue in which it will appear. If you want your entry renewed, send in the coupon on page 138. If your group isn't listed here, then send us your details!

Please note: this list is provided as a free service for amateur, non-profit-making Mac user groups. MACFORMAT does not endorse or recommend any group and cannot be held responsible for any problems you might suffer as a result of contacting groups advertised here.

very good condition, home use only – £100. Tel: 0121 352 0668.

■ Mac LCII 8/80, keyboard, mouse, 14-inch colour monitor, all boxed, excellent condition, System 7, StyleWriter II, printer still under warranty – £820. Tel: (Bedfordshire) 01525 280406 (evenings).

■ Mac IIfx, 14-inch colour monitor, 8/600Mb, keyboard, mouse, System 7.5, *Claris* software, games, just been serviced, what a bargain, going abroad – £1,050. Contact Dean on 01256 819997.

■ Classic 4/40 in excellent condition, seeks aspiring Mac owner, manuals, disks, covers, all as new – £400 ono. Tel: 0181 742 0371.

■ SE30 died, hence 8-bit colour card (SE30) – £75. Colour monitor – £150. Keyboard and mouse – £70. ImageWriter II – £90. Ring for more details. Tel: (Huddersfield) 01484 720629.

■ Mac IIci, 14-inch colour monitor, perfect condition, laser printer, taken in part exchange, no software, hence price – £1,099. Tel: 01670 828278.

■ ImageWriter II printer with cut sheet feed, light home use only. £100 Two 1Mb 30-pin SIMMs from LC £20 each. Tel: 01661 872495 evenings.

■ PowerBook Duo 230 8/80, two batteries, all boxed, as new – £800 ono. Contact Mark on 0178 926 9638 (evenings).

■ Mac LC 10/80, 256 VRAM, 12-inch colour monitor, designer keyboard, mouse, microphone, boxed with manuals, home use only, excellent condition – £600. Contact Austin on 01895 237 998. Daytime, no cranks please.

■ Apple Performa Plus colour monitor, boxed as new – £125. Tel: 01623 794860.

■ Performa 450, 500Mb hard disk, FPU, VRAM, Power CD, HP colour DeskWriter, six months old, sensible offers please. Tel: 01705 782447.

■ LCII 10/40, Apple 12-inch Trinitron colour monitor, keyboard, mouse, manuals, System 7.1, £600. Tel: 01954 718879 (Cambs).

■ Radius colour pivot, LE monitor with card for an SE30. Excellent condition £400. Please phone 01286 870729.

■ PowerBook 165, System 7.1, 80Mb hard disk, AC adaptor battery, Video Cable – £700. Contact Malcolm on (Bournemouth) 01202 739786.

■ Mac SE/30 8/40, with A4 black and white Radius screen, mouse and keyboard – £475 ono. Tel: (office) 01954 211911; (home) 01223 214828.

■ Mac Classic 4/40, mouse and keyboard – £275 ono. Tel: (office) 01954 211911 (home) 01223 214828.

■ Performa 200 plus StyleWriter II printer, one year old, boxed as new, quick sale wanted, open to offers. Contact Jon on 01223 249573.

■ Colour Classic 4/40, System 7.1, manuals, System software, disks, mouse, keyboard, light home use only – £600 ono. Tel: 0181 995 1065.

■ Classic II 4/40, StyleWriter II, *ClarisWorks, TouchBase Pro, DateBook Pro*, all original packaging disks, etc, excellent condition, domestic use only, 18 months old – £550. Tel: 0121 358 3641.

■ Mac SE 4/20, System 7.1, keyboard, mouse – £250. Tel: (Enfield) 0181 342 0947.

■ 2 x 1 Mb SIMMs from LC – £40. VRAM 256K – £10. Tel: (Edinburgh) 0131 334 0851 (after 6pm).

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■ *Myst* – £25. *Dark Seed* – £15, *Complete Lemmings* CD – £15, all as new. Swap offers very welcome. Also buying games, reference CDs, etc. Tel: 01603 451839.

■ *Aldus Persuasion 3.0*, unopened, unregistered, unwanted prize. Costs £255 brand new, yours for only £150. What an unbeatable price! Call Jim on 0181 348 0830 (weekdays after 4.30pm).

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■ *Illustrator 5.5*, original with disks – £135. Also *Illustrator 5.0* with original disks and manuals, both boxed – £135. Tel: 01872 225759.

■ *Prince of Persia v1, PGA Tour Golf v1* and *Correct Grammar 2* – £15 each. *Stacker 1.0* – £30. *Num (1.0 & 1.1)* – £10. Macintosh Bible (with disks) – £12. All prices negotiable. Tel: 01860 123798.

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■ *Illustrator 5.5* – £115 with manuals. *PhotoShop 2.5.1* CD Deluxe plus manuals – £115. System 7.5, £25. *Wolfenstein* 3D, 90 levels, £15. All original. Tel: 01872 225759.

■ Games for sale: *Civilisation, Prince of Persia 1, Playmaker Football*, original disks and manuals – only £10 each. Tel: 0114 268 3216.

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■ Swap *Lunicus* or *Jump Raven* for my *Iron Helix* or *Journeyman CD*. Must be in mint condition with original packaging. Phone Mr Creed on 01252 721783.

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■ Swap *Indiana Jones – Fate of Atlantis* and *PGA Golf* for *Civilisation, Kings Quest 6, Theme Park* or offers, one for one. Contact Mark on 01743 232242.

■ I have over 50 shareware games to swap for similar. I also have *SimCity*, but without the manual. Contact Amro on 01249 653401.

■ I'll swap shareware etc. Write to: Fredrik Åman, Magasinsg 12, 71260 Grythyttan, Sweden.*Flightism 4, SimLife, Castle of Doctor Brain, Daisy's Castle*, System 7.1 – what have you got? Tel: 01582 416685 anytime and ask for Paul.

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■ Colour Classic wanted. Good price paid. Contact Colin on 0181 348 5975.

■ *MacLabel Pro*. Tel: 01506 883772.

■ Manual or copy for Mac IIfx (it's not available from Apple) wanted. Tel: John 0181 894 1175 days, or 01956 229276 eves and weekends.

■ SIMMs wanted for Mac IIfx, 2x 1Mb. Tel: John 0181 894 1175 days, or 01956 229276 eves and weekends.

■ Wanted: 2 x 4Mb SIMMs, 100ns or less, 30 pin, for LC, £100 cash. Will collect. Call Rory on 01782 750700 daytime or 01782 7500080 evenings.

■ Wanted: 80Mb or bigger hard disk and battery charger unit for PowerBook 100. Tel: 01903 215118.

■ *FreeHand* version 4, unregistered copy. ASAP. Tel: 01453 750181 (Martin).

■ 2 x 512k video RAM for LC475. Tel: 0131 337 4238 (Edinburgh).

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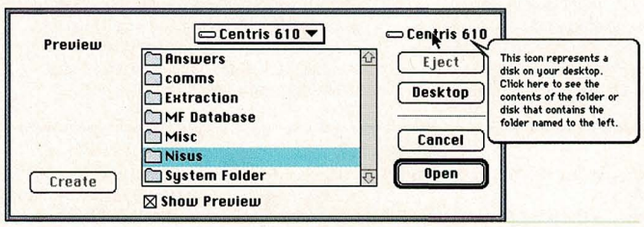
■ Rock/Indie reviews wanted for free fanzine in Essex area. Quark/raw text. Send submissions to: Wrongside Fanzine, 310 South Street, Romford, Essex RM1 2AJ.

Balloon hindrance

MACFORMAT reader Charlie Dancey thinks that Balloon 'Help' is anything but – and that System 8 will make it worse...

Now I know that MACFORMAT is a special interest magazine and we should say nothing but good about those wonderful people at Apple and the great user interface they've created, which makes Macs a joy to use, and so on. Alas, I feel I must protest.

I foolishly turned on **Balloon Help** a few moments ago and was confronted with the opaque and bizarre piece of information in the speech bubble (below).



To fill your orderly Mac screen with pointless speech bubbles, simply click on **Balloon Help**.

Now is it me? Am I getting old and slow in the head? Why did it take me five minutes of experimentation to realise that I already knew what Apple was trying to tell me – you click on the disk name to go 'up a level'.

No, it is not me; this is a classic case of Apple Balloon *Hindrance*. Ever wondered why that little icon is a speech bubble with a question mark in it? That's how you feel *after* using it, not before!

The sooner I get a copy of that bit of shareware, freeware, or, dammit, payware, that wipes this silly nonsense off my Desktop forever, the better.

I've heard a dreadful rumour from someone whose friend is a friend of someone working with Apple in California. In the forthcoming System 8 (alias Copland) there is a distinct risk that **Balloon Help** will be replaced by **Voice Buddy®**, the helpful and chatty companion built into your Mac. I can imagine the scene now...

VOICE BUDDY: This window belongs to the application '*QuarkXPress*'. To make the window active click in it or say 'Computer – make *QuarkXPress* active'.

DAVE: I don't want *QuarkXPress* active. Why don't you shut up?

VOICE BUDDY: That command was not recognised. Please remain calm and speak slowly.

DAVE: How can I remain calm when you won't shut up?

VOICE BUDDY: I'm sorry, Dave, I can't do that right now.

Dave: Computer – shut down.

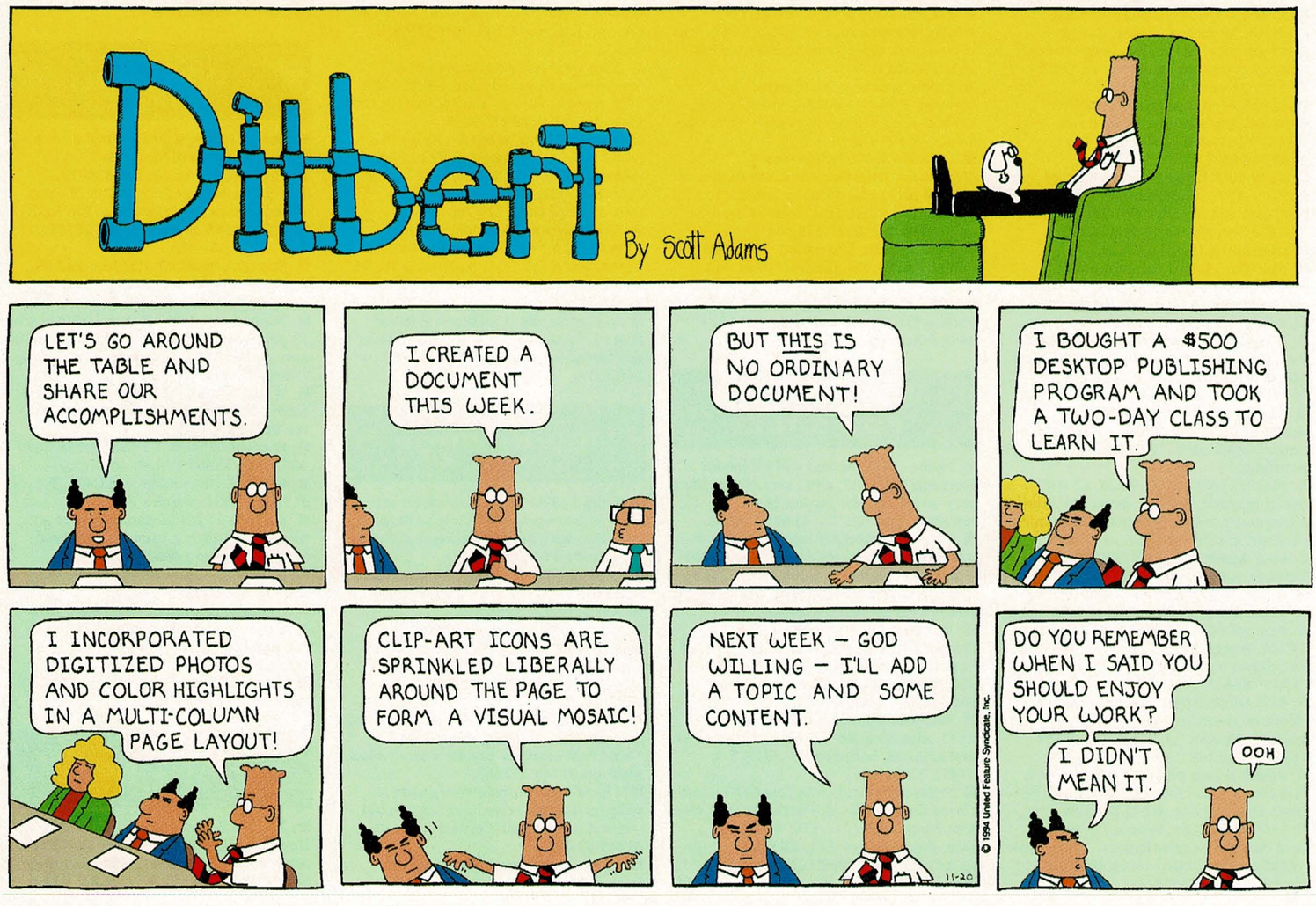
VOICE BUDDY: Can we talk about this, Dave?

DAVE: No. Computer – shut down.

VOICE BUDDY: My mind is going, Dave, I'm frightened... Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do...etc, etc.

Charlie Dancey
Bath

■ The opinions expressed on this page are those of the author, not necessarily those of MACFORMAT or Future Publishing Ltd. If you have something to say, write to 'Soapbox', MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. ASCII text on disk would be nice, but isn't essential. We reserve the right to sub-edit your grammar, but won't alter the sense of any opinions.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NEXT WEEK – GOD WILLING – I'LL ADD A TOPIC AND SOME CONTENT.
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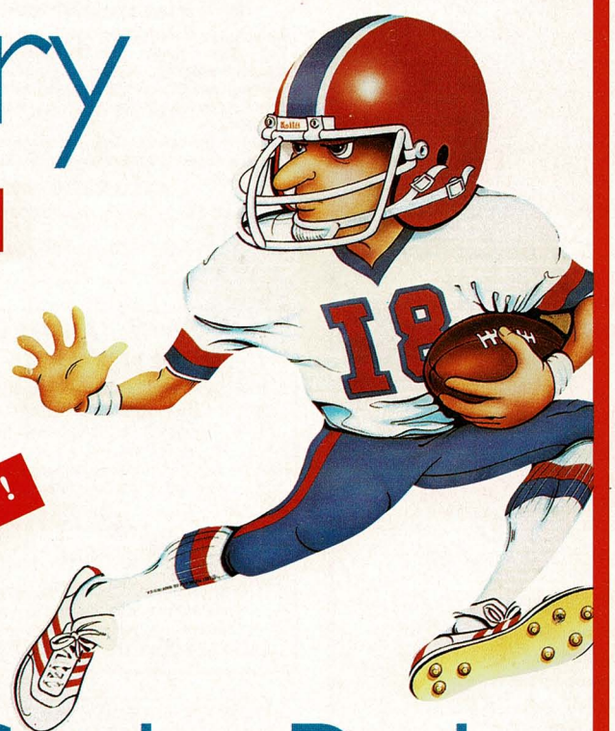

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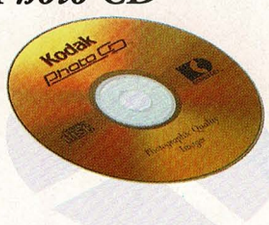

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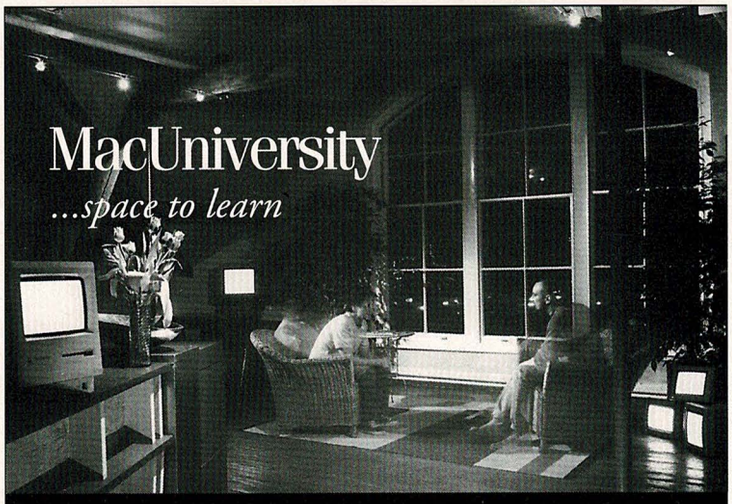

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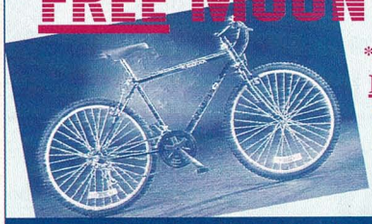

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Photographic images on covers, disk pages and elsewhere taken from PhotoDisc's 'European Business and Lifestyles' CD. For enquiries, contact PhotoDisc on 0800 697622

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Printed in the UK by TPL (UK) Ltd

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■ Standard 12 month subscription rates, inc postage: HD disk edition: UK £47.88, Eire £59.88, rest of world £79.88; CD-ROM edition: UK £59.88, Eire £71.88, rest of world £91.88. Subscription hotline 01225 822511 (8.45am–6pm); subscription enquiries 01225 442244. Fax 01458 274378 (24 hours).

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Average circulation per issue, July–December 1994:

40,146!

This big and no bigger – the Tiny Zone!

Hello and welcome again to the Tiny Zone, the section of MACFORMAT that fits in this space. This issue has been brought to you by the number 7 and the letters Q and X – that is, seven members of staff (plus a few freelances and techies, but let's not get too picky) and *QuarkXPress*. It's pretty amazing to think that it's only been some ten years since the Mac and *PageMaker* took the world of publishing by storm and gave the world DTP. (Yet another first for the Macintosh, along with windows and menus. Or have I mentioned that before...?) It must have been a surreal experience, trying to do page make-up on the screens of those days – a bit like building one of those ships in a bottle, I imagine, except that with those you can at least see the whole thing at once. More like trying to tie somebody's shoelaces through the letterbox, perhaps. You'd have had to be a brave man to be one of that bold band of pioneers that the marketing experts call 'early adopters', and yet if the idea of DTP hadn't taken off in a big way, as it did, who knows where publishing would be today? Or where the Mac would be, for that matter. At the time, it was a pricey option, and all the innovations in the interface which have now become standard were unfamiliar territory. Thank God, as Apple no doubt did, that it was so damn good! With the benefit of history, you can now see just how brilliant the Mac has always been, from that interface to something as far-sighted as built-in networking. I wonder what we'll be saying about the PowerMacs ten years from now? Brilliant though they are, it's hard to see how they'll bring about a transformation as far-reaching as the Mac did. Why, ten years ago a writer would have had to count words; now I can cut and paste and just keep typing until I fill up the space exac

Next month

GET THE POWER
The PowerMac is the hottest thing since the first Mac – faster and more powerful than any other desktop computer. Next issue, learn why it's so good, find out which model is right for you, and discover how you could even get PowerPC power on your desk without buying a new Mac!
CompuServe for free
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Fax-modems
We survey the hardware and software that enable you to send faxes from Macses

ARE YOU A WINNER?

In MACFORMAT 19 we gave you the chance to win an Epson GT-8000 colour flatbed scanner, complete with *Adobe Photoshop LE* and *Omni-Page Direct* OCR software – a total prize value of £1,250, courtesy of those nice people at Epson. (And we're not just saying they're nice because we'd love one of their scanners for... um, 'extended evaluation'. Good heavens no.) Anyway, the lucky winner is Mr C F Chim of London SE19. Well done, C F!

In issue 20, the prize on offer was five copies of Fractal Design's latest Natural Media paint program, *Painter 3.0*, courtesy of Letraset Software. The five names drawn out of the cardboard box were: Mrs V Iredale of Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk; Deepa Agarwal of London SE5; Mr P Hinchliffe of Huddersfield, West Yorks.; Tone Fryd of Charlottenlund, Denmark; and P Jacobs, who by one of those coincidences which can only confirm that these draws are completely fair and impartial, also hails from Bury St Edmunds, which apparently is still in Suffolk. I mean, why would we show favouritism towards Bury St Edmunds? Even Derek, who used to have a job killing things in the Abbey gardens there, says 'There's nothing particularly special about it, no.' But, er, congratulations to all. Even the ones who live there.

MACFORMAT 25 goes on sale on Thursday 4 May

Available with high density floppy disk or CD-ROM. Ask your newsagent to save you a copy or see the insert in this issue for our special subscription offers

Win a Umax colour flatbed scanner

Scan in full colour up to A4 size with the Umax Vista-S8 flatbed scanner – and even transparencies! The scanner plus transparency unit is worth over £2,100, and you could one, courtesy of the distributor, IMC.

This Umax Vista-S8 scanner and transparency unit could be yours – just answer the three easy questions...

You don't need us to tell you what a scanner could do for you – especially a top-notch high-speed, high-resolution, full-colour flatbed scanner like the Umax Vista-S8. Your Mac pages could incorporate all the diagrams, illustrations and photographs you've ever dreamed of – even transparencies, with the optional UTA-V6 transparency adaptor included. And the best part is, despite all this power and potential, we found the Vista-S8 the easiest scanner to use in our tests this issue!

The Umax Vista-S8 boasts an optical resolution of 400 x 800 dots per inch and maximum resolution of up to 6,400dpi through interpolation using the built-in Ultra View Technology, meaning better image quality. It can scan in three modes: line-art (black or white only), greyscale, and full 24-bit colour – that is, millions of colours, giving you excellent colour fidelity. What's more, unlike some other colour scanners that have to perform a separate scan for each colour, it uses a single-pass system and 'microstepping' technology, so it's both fast and quiet. The *VistaScan* scanning software supplied is simple to use but fully featured – it can even automate scanning controls to a single step process such as 'auto-density' to determine highlight and shadow values.

But that's not all! Included is the optional UTA-V6 transparency adaptor, which sells for £700 on its own. This enables you to scan transparencies up to 8.5 x 11.7 inches in size.

Put all this together and you've got a complete scanning set-up that any DTP bureau would be proud of. The whole outfit would cost you over £2,100 to buy, but you could win one, courtesy of Umax's distributor, IMC, simply by answering the three easy questions below. Send us your answers on a postcard or the back of a stuck-down envelope – the closing date is Friday 12 May 1995.

The Rules!

Employees of Umax, IMC, Future Publishing Ltd or associated companies, and their families, are not eligible to enter. Multiple entries are not allowed, unless they are on original photographic transparencies. Please state if you do not want your name added to a mailing list. The editor's decision is final, there is no cash alternative, and no correspondence will be entered into.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What is the maximum size of *transparency* that the Umax Vista-S8 can scan with UTA-V6 trannie adaptor?
(a) 8.5 x 11.7 inches
(b) A4
(c) 6,400 dpi

2. The Vista-S8 incorporates an interpolation system called UVT to extend its resolution. What does UVT stand for?
(a) Ultra View Technology
(b) Unrivalled Vertical Trim
(c) Unfortunately Very Tricky

3. How do you adjust the SCSI ID number on the Vista-S8?
(a) Using a rotary selector dial
(b) Via the set-up software
(c) You can't – it's fixed to SCSI ID 5

Easy, no? If you need help, have a look at our scanners round-up starting on page 88. Then send your entry, on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope (don't forget your name and address!) to: 'Hasta la Vista-S8 Scanner, Baby' Compo, MACFORMAT, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.

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seek times are average, "effective" seek times are all faster. All drives are fast SCSI2.

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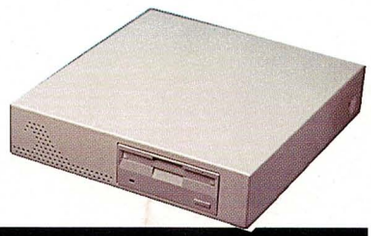

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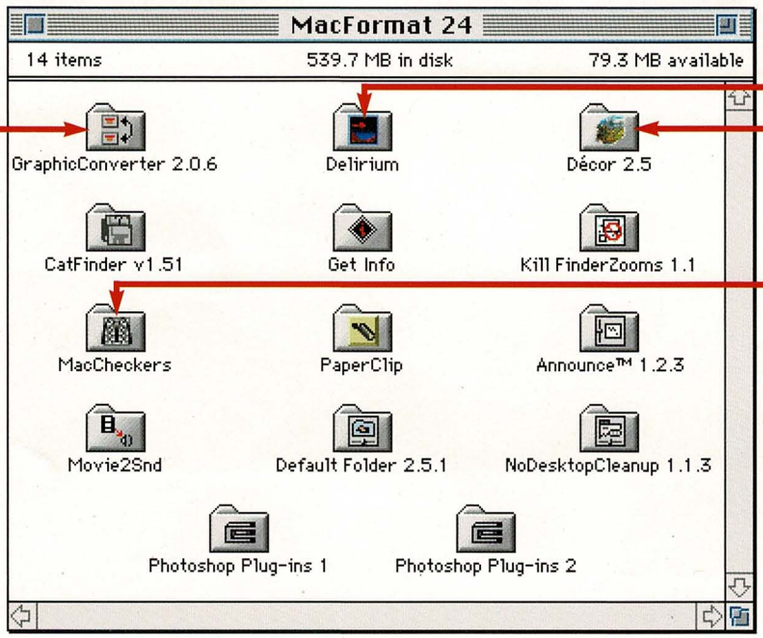
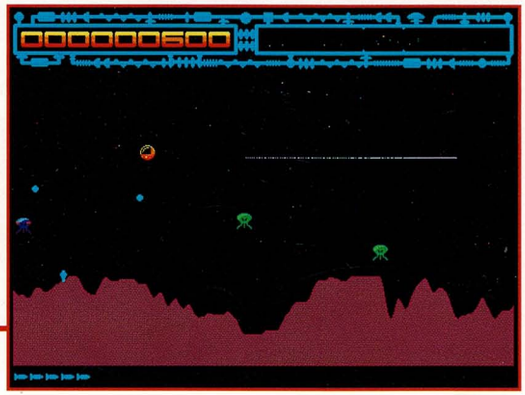
MACFORMAT

ON THE DISK THIS MONTH...

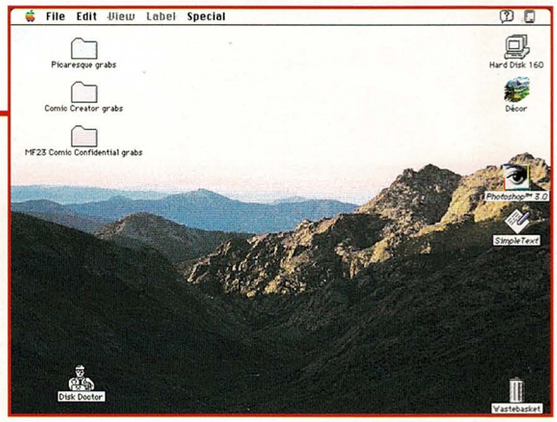
We have a collection of top-notch software that you'll want to keep permanently on your Mac. Included this month are some red hot releases from the Internet, and a wonderful selection of *Photoshop* plug-ins from a MACFORMAT reader.





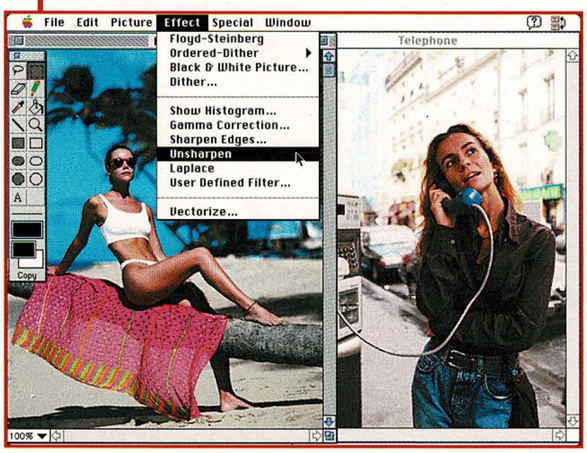
DELIRIUM

If you ever played *Defender* on the classic old BBC computer, you'll instantly recognise this lovingly-crafted clone. The idea is to whizz across a planet's surface rescuing little people from marauding aliens. It's frantically fast, and fiendishly tricky. Requires: LC or better, colour monitor, System 6.0.7 or later, 2Mb free RAM



DÉCOR 2.5

Coloured patterns are nice, but now you can replace your current Desktop pattern with any full-screen image you like! Simply drag a suitable graphic file onto the program's icon and you have a window on the world. Requires: Colour monitor, System 7 or later

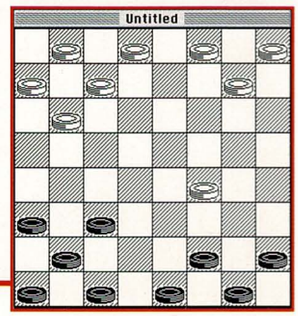


GRAPHICCONVERTER 2.0.6

This wonderful program enables you to open virtually any graphic file, including PC, ST and Amiga files. You can then alter the images and add to them using a good basic range of filter and tools. It's a mini *Photoshop*! Requires: colour monitor, System 7.0 or later, 2Mb free RAM

UTILITIES

This month we bring you the improved *CatFinder 1.51* to catalogue your disk collection and *Default Folder* to vastly improve Open dialogue boxes. *Kill FinderZooms* will speed up the way your Desktop works, while *NoDesktopCleanup* protects it. Using *Movie2Snd*, you can transfer any CD track to your hard disk with our guide inside, and *Get Info* will quickly tell you about whole batches of files. *Announce* is a useful program for anyone on a network, and *PaperClip* can eject stuck floppies safely. Last but not least is a series of *Photoshop* Plug-ins sent in by a reader to enhance any Plug-in compatible program.

MACCHECKERS 1.0

This is a Mac adaptation of the classic board game. It can teach you both the tactics of the game and how to lose gracefully. It's not only free, but it requires just a tiny bit of hard disk space and memory. Requires: Any Mac